

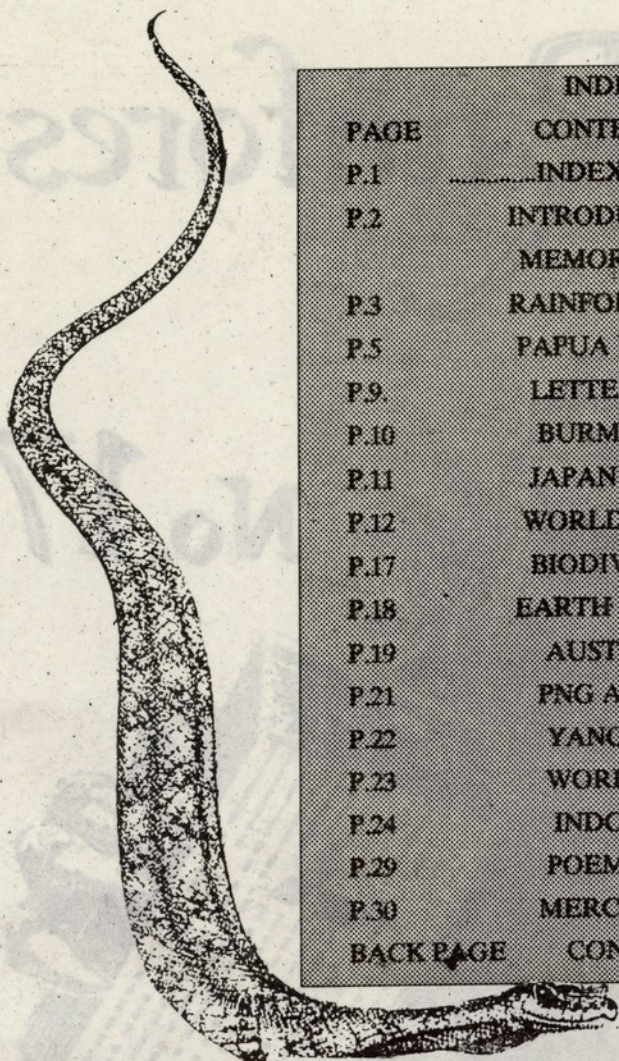
World Rainforest Report.

No. 17



Ban Japan from Rainforest.

November 1990.



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BUT WHO IS FELLING THE TREES?



WRR would like to thank the following people for their help and support:

Andy Frame for photographs

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Anne and Brenda for typing

all our contributors

our friends and lovers for putting up with our long absences from home and strange hours

SPONSOR ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

We would like to thank all our sponsors for their support: L Schlunke of Temora, Ian Holland of North Sydney, Malcolm Anderson of Canberra, Suncorp of Perth, and Anne Marie Hannah of New York.

COVER STORY: GODZILLA IS BACK!

The Rainforest Action Network has recruited Godzilla star of the low budget Japanese movies from the 1960's. Godzilla is a large dinosaur-like creature who was created from an atomic explosion. She usually attacks cities and other monsters that are destroying the earth (eg. smog monsters). Basically, she is a good monster and a defender of earth and nature. Since Godzilla is a Japanese earth defender she is a good beastie to have on side when confronting Japanese (and other) corporations who are destroying the rainforest.

We also extend an invitation to any of our esteemed readers to help sponsor this publication with any amount of money. We will acknowledge all contributions in each issue.

For more information please contact:-

"friends of Penan"
Rainforest Information Centre
P.O. Box 368 Lismore
N.S.W. 2480

*****MALAYSIAN TOURISM BOYCOTT*****

Did you know that 1990 is "Visit Malaysia Year"? Tourism is a substantial income earner for Malaysia. By writing letters stating that you will not support the tourism industry unless logging is stopped you could have an immediate effect on the situation in Malaysia.

We would like you to write letters in your own hand writing following the format of the sample letter, **however the more personal you make it, the better the effect it will have.** Here are some points to keep in mind when writing your letter.

- Always be polite.
- Explain your desire to travel to Malaysia.
- Give reasons why you would like to see Malaysia, eg. because you have heard of its beautiful and unique rainforests, how varied its cultures are, and how gentle and hospitable its peoples are.
- Say that you feel you can not support its tourism, until something is done about the destructive rainforest logging and the exploitation of human rights, (the rights of the indigenous people to live on their own land under their own law).
- End with something positive, eg. You look forward to visiting Malaysia and experiencing its beauty - when something is done to stop rainforest logging.

*****-SAMPLE LETTER-*****

Director General of Tourism
Encik Badris Haji Masri
24-27 Floors, Menara Dato'Onn,
Putra World Trade Centre,
45 Jalan Tun Ismail,
50480 Kuala Lumpur,
Malaysia.

Dear Sir,

I am writing to tell you of my desire to travel to your country. I have heard and seen much documentation of your beautiful and diverse rainforests and understand they are some of the oldest and most unique in the world. I have also heard much about the gentleness and hospitality of the people who inhabit these forests, and of their fascinating cultures.

Due to the continued rainforest logging occurring in Malaysia (especially the states of Sarawak and Sabah) and the destruction of these unique forests and lifestyles of these peoples, I feel that I can not visit your country and support your government until the destructive logging of rainforests and exploitation of human rights is stopped.

It seems a shame to be promoting a year of tourism at the same time as destroying the very forests and cultures of many tribal people that we tourists would come to your country to see.

When rainforest logging ceases in the states of Sarawak and Sabah I look forward to visiting your beautiful country.

Yours faithfully,

THE TRIBAL PEOPLE OF SARAWAK WORLD TOUR

The rate of primary forest destruction in Sarawak is now the highest in the world: an estimated 70% of primary forest has already been lost. "Land is their sweat, blood and life," writes Evelyn Hong in her seminal work, "Natives of Sarawak". With the destruction of the primary forest comes hardship and hunger to all the tribal people, but it is the nomadic Penan, dependant as they are on the primary forest, who today face imminent demise, culturally and literally.

Today, of the 5,000 to 6,000 Penan people left, as few as 300 can survive traditionally in their despoiled lands. The rest have been forced to abandon nomadic life for squalid resettlement camps that make a pathetic mockery of "civilization": here they have little access to food, clean water or medicine. Road construction and logging destroys river systems, medicinal plants, wildlife and sago without which the non agrarian Penan cannot survive. Yet their adversaries place the blame on the Penan, calling them resistant to change.

Sarawak and the life threat to the nomadic Penan culture represent a world trend in microcosm. At an alarming rate, ancient repositories of life and biodiversity are being eradicated for the sake of short-term profits for the very few. As this wholesale destruction of irreplaceable natural treasures becomes accepted as the norm internationally, our world is being destroyed -- and with it, ourselves. As Harvard ethnobotanist Dr. Wade Davis states, "It's rather like kindling a campfire with a Van Gogh -- sure, you get some heat, but at what cost?" Can we continue to stand idly by, warming our hands at the fire? Whether the biological and cultural richness of Sarawak will remain part of our global legacy or be lost in the next few years depends to a large extent on the role timber importing countries choose to play. With Australia poised to make a decision very soon whether to continue the importation of tropical timbers it was decided to make Australia the first step of the International World Tour of two Penan tribespeople and one Kelabit person.

Unga Paran, Mutung Tuo and Mutung Urud, recently in Australia on the start of a fifteen nation tour touched the heart and spirits of many, as they told their despairing story with devout truth. "We feel like fish in a pool in the hot sun and the water is drying up. We pray for rain. The rain doesn't come and the pool is getting smaller," said Mutang Tu'o aged 24.

Unga Paran 42, the Secretary of the Penan Association, continued to tell the story with astute dignity, "We pray that you help us and we come to Australia to tell you what is happening. We cannot find the trees to make our blowpipes, but I see the wood here at the timber yard. We are sick, the kompani logs the forest there are many poisonous vines in the forest, the rain comes and the poisons wash into the rivers, we drink from the rivers and it makes us sick.

"My heart is sad because my wife and five children are in the forest and I hope they can get enough food to eat. I have been on the blockades many times. The police have arrested me. They put me in jail. They tie my hands and feet together, I have tears when I see my brothers who are much older than me in jail also. We have tried everything. The Government says it will give us money to help but this is empty promises. We want to tell your Government not to buy the wood from our forests for our families go without food. We are fish tossed out on the land. We are like children, left alone in an empty hut, without father or mother".

These people who choose to leave the forests do so from their sense of urgency for their forests and families. As Unga said: "... we do not think about what may happen to us when we go back home but it cannot be worse that what is already happening".

Their courage can but empower us to join with them in solidarity and do whatever we can to support their struggle for their way of life and for their forests and futures, their struggle a microcosm symptomatic of what is happening over the entire planet.

Write letters to your Governments urging them to implement bans on the importation of Tropical Timbers, write to the Chief Minister of Sarawak urging him to implement an immediate moratorium of logging in Sarawak and create a biosphere reserve so as the tribal people of Sarawak can continue their way of life as they have done for thousands of years in harmony and grace.

YAB Tan Sri Datuk Patinggi, Abd. Taib Mahmud
Chief Minister of Sarawak, Chief Ministers Office
Bangunan Tunku Abd. Rahman Putra, Petra Jaya, 93503
Kuching, Sarawak MALAYSIA



RAINFORESTS DISAPPEARING 50% FASTER THAN FEARED

Destruction of the world's tropical forests is occurring nearly 50% faster than the best previous scientific estimates showed, with enough trees being lost each year to cover the state of Washington, the World Resources Institute said Thursday. Between 40 and 50 million acres are lost annually, according to new satellite measurements of forestland, with the biggest losses occurring in Brazil, India, Indonesia, Myanmar (formerly Burma) and Costa Rica.

Earlier Estimates by the U.N. placed annual losses at 28 million acres. But these estimates were based on data gathered before 1980, compared to the latest findings, based on 1987 data. The earlier figures were obtained largely through less accurate ground observations.

The report published in June is the first comprehensive picture of worldwide deforestation trends based on a compilation of recent studies.

Tropical forests shelter half of the world's plant and animal species - most of them as yet undiscovered - and also serve as means of countering the build-up of carbon dioxide, the main contributor to global warming.

Forests, most prominently in the Third World, are cut down at a rapid pace to provide wood for export, fuel and to clear land for agriculture and industry. When the forests are cleared and burned, huge amounts of the carbon is returned to the atmosphere in the form of carbon dioxide gas. Tree burning accounts for an estimated 30% of worldwide total carbon dioxide emissions. Burning fuels like coal, oil and gasoline accounts for most of the rest.

Allen L. Hammond, editor of the volume, "World Resources, 1990-91," called the updated estimate conservative. "In countries where we have reliable new data, its far worse than 50%. Fifty per cent is a world average," he said.

Brazil, which has the world's largest remaining tropical forests, also has the largest area of annual deforestation. The new studies indicate that Brazil's annual losses are between 10 and 20 million acres within the Amazon and 2.5 million acres outside of it. The World Resources Institute said that deforestation rates in other countries also saw dramatic upswings in the new studies. In Myanmar, 1.7 million acres are lost each year, an astounding 545% increase over 1980 estimates. The 1980 estimate is based on recent field work, a continuing analysis of aerial photographs and satellite data and extrapolations from the U.N. data. In India, satellite sensing studies point to a ten-fold increase over previous estimates of 3.7 million acres a year. The Indonesian deforestation estimate of 2.2 million acres a year is 50% more than the 1980 estimate and Costa Rica's figure rose 90% to 300,000 acres lost annually. Only in Thailand are the old and the new estimates comparable.

The report, published in collaboration with the U.N. Environment Program and the U.N. Development Program, also for the first time ranked greenhouse gas emission from 146 countries. The United States and Soviet Union ranked NO.1 and No.2, respectively. Combined, they accounted for nearly 30% of all greenhouse gas emissions world wide in 1987 followed by Brazil, China, India, Japan, West Germany (report released prior to unification) and Great Britain. If the European Community is considered as a single entity, it would rank second behind the United States instead of the Soviet Union. Worldwide, the equivalent of 6.5 billion tons of carbon in the form of carbon dioxide, methane and chlorofluorocarbons were added to the atmosphere in 1987, the report said. (That makes three times that amount by 1990 -ed.)

source: Los Angeles Times, June 1990

Rainforest Memorandum

Your current issue of the WRR reached you later than planned because the editors were working on another project - The Australian Rainforest Memorandum.

This memorandum was inspired by a West German "Rainforest Memorandum", produced by ARA, the Working Group for Rainforest and Species Conservation. The German Memorandum was endorsed by a coalition of groups representing millions of West German citizens and had a major impact on the development of rainforest policy in that country. Rainforest Memoranda have also been developed in Belgium and Austria and are being prepared in the U.S.A., Finland and Japan.

The premise of these Memoranda is that the primary way that any country can support the protection of rainforest is to

examine and stop its own activities that contribute to their destruction.

Like other over-developed countries, Australia has expressed concern about the global disappearance of rainforest without taking responsibility for their part in its destruction. This Memorandum shows how Australia destroys rainforest by importing rainforest timber, the actions of Australian companies and a development-fixated aid policy.

This edition of WRR includes an article adapted from the memorandum on the impact of Australian companies on rainforest in the Asia-Pacific region. Subsequent WRR's will include Memorandum extracts on the impact of Australia's overseas aid policy and the continuing destruction of Australia's own rainforests.

Aust. Companies in Asian Rainforests.

THE IMPACT OF AUSTRALIAN COMPANIES ON THE RAINFORESTS OF THE ASIA PACIFIC REGION.

More than 150 companies with Australian investments in the mineral and energy sector are active in the region, mostly in Fiji, Papua New Guinea and Indonesia. The three largest operations in which there is Australian involvement are the Ok Tedi and Bougainville mines in Papua New Guinea, and the Freeport mine in Irian Jaya.

The Ok Tedi mine is located in one of New Guinea's remotest regions, high in the Star Mountains on the banks of the Ok Tedi River. The Ok Tedi flows into the Fly River, PNG's major river system. Forty thousand people live beside the banks of the Fly and depend on it for food, water and transportation. Broken Hill Proprietary (BHP) is a major shareholder in the consortium (OTML) which controls this mining operation. Major shareholders in BHP include the Westpac Banking Corporation, the Government Insurance Office of NSW and the National Mutual Life Association (BHP 1989). Other investors in OTML include the US company Standard Oil and Metalgesellschaft from West Germany. The PNG Government has an 18 per cent share in the mine.

In January 1984, the tailings dam built to stop mine waste from entering the Ok Tedi River was swept away by a landslide, flooding the river with toxic wastes. Five months later, a barge carrying 2,700 drums of cyanide to the mine capsized, tipping its whole cargo into the river. Less than 5 per cent of the 270,000 kilograms of cyanide were recovered. The rest remains buried in the sediment, waiting for time and corrosion to release their contents into the river. Hundreds of kilometres of the Fly River have been killed. Toxic sediments from the mine are now making their way out into the Torres Strait, damaging coastal fisheries.

A huge open cut mine at Gunung Bijih in the central highlands of West Papua (Irian Jaya) is run by Freeport Indonesia, a subsidiary of the US company Freeport McRohan. The contract for the mine was signed in 1967, before Indonesia's regulations on foreign investment had been finalised, and so the mine is not subject to controls which have been imposed since then (Survival International 1990). No Australian company is directly involved in the operation of the mine, but Australian interests are involved in providing supplies and medical care for its 3,500 workers. Cairns is the Australian supply base for the mine and there are regular flights and supply ships servicing the mine from Cairns and Darwin. (Osborne 1988)

Ertzberg mountain, the site of the operation, has been hollowed out by twenty years of mining. The dumping of untreated copper mine tailings into a tributary of the Ajikwa river has affected the health of the indigenous people, forty thousand of whom have been or will be displaced by the mine. They have been resettled in lowland areas where they have been unable to adapt and

many contracted malaria and other diseases. Close to the mine is the Lorentz Nature Reserve. It contains one of the world's two remaining equatorial glaciers. One of its ice fields has already begun to melt due to higher temperatures and movement caused by the mine (WALHI 1990).

Conzinc Rio Tinto Australia's (CRA) Panguna copper mine on Bougainville has irrevocably changed the landscape and way of life of the islanders. The mine itself covers an area of about 200 hectares and 200,000 tonnes of material are mined daily. The mine was closed in late 1989 by a campaign of sabotage which followed the failure of CRA to accede to a claim for compensation by Panguna landowners. (Post-Courier August 24th 1988)

Pollution of the Jaba River by waste from the mine is a major concern. At the time of the mine closure, there were plans to build a tailings pipeline into the nearby Empress Augusta Bay as an alternative to dumping toxic waste into the river. (Post-Courier August 24th 1988) Between 1973 and 1983 about 768 million tonnes of waste and tailings were dumped into the Jaba and other rivers.

The Wau-Bulolo area south of Lae was first mined for gold in the 1930's. No concern was given to the impact on the environment, and the local people were forced to work the mines under appalling conditions. Royalties were low and most of the profits went to Australia. New Guinea Goldfields, a subsidiary of the Australian company, Renison Gold, now operates the only remaining large mine in the area. It is still polluting the Nami Creek, Edi Creek and Bulolo River with mercury, lead, cadmium and toxic wastes. The 22,000 tonnes of toxic sediment released daily by the mine have effectively killed the Bulolo River, which now contains no fish and very little aquatic life. 500,000 tonnes of soil and ore are removed each year by the mine creating a wasteland out of once fertile lands. (Wau Ecology Institute 1988, Hilton et al 1988) Not far from Wau, Hidden Valley Gold, a CRA company, has discovered gold and intends mining there for the next ten to twelve years. Pollution of the Watut River is a major concern of the local communities who will have no control over the environmental impact of the proposed mine (Wau Ecology Institute 1988, Hilton et al 1988). The Porgera gold mine, a joint venture of Renison Goldfields, Mt. Isa Mines and Placer (PNG) Ltd. also drains into the Fly River. The mine is expected to dump a total of 74 million tonnes of waste containing heavy metals and toxic sludge into the river system in its projected 21 year life. The company is reported to be reluctant to build a tailings dam. (Wau Ecology Institutwe 1988, Hilton et al 1988).

Australian companies are prospecting in the Asia-Pacific region for gold, copper, nickel, chrome and diamonds. There is next to no documentation available on the environmental or social impact of these exploration activities. Many Australian companies are involved in the search for oil and gas in the PNG/Indonesia region. Exploration often involves forest destruction, such as the cutting of seismic transects with bulldozers through rainforests, but no environmental assessments of these

operations are available.

The Australian company, Pelsart, is involved in a joint venture dredging operation at Kasongan in central Kalimantan. 12,480 tons of river bank are churned up every day to extract gold, with disastrous impact on the riverine ecology.

Rio Tinto Zinc, the British-based mining giant with a 44.8 per cent holding in the Australian company CRA (CRA 1989), has been criticised on environmental and human rights grounds for its operations in Parrengena and Parit Cina in Kalimantan by the Indonesian environment group SKEPHI.

The governor of East Kalimantan has asked the Rio Tinto subsidiary PT Kelian Equatorial which is beginning operations in the Mahakan River catchment to "guide" the local people so that they understand that they must not cultivate fields in the 2,800 square kilometres of land which are now part of the company's concession. (Inside Indonesia December 1988) Such cases of dispossession of local peoples usually result in further forest destruction as affected communities are forced to abandon fertile lands and clear new areas of forest, often on poorer soil. (WRM 1990)

Major Australian interests (BHP, CRA and Allied Queensland Coalfields) are developing open cut coal mines in Kalimantan for export markets (Jamiesen 1990, Inside Indonesia December 1988). Mining operations will be similar to the large open cut mines found in central Queensland where large pits and mountains of overburden are left behind and regeneration has been largely unsuccessful. The impact will be much more severe in the high rainfall zone of Kalimantan. Large areas of forest cover will be entirely removed and local people will probably suffer forced relocation (Jamiesen 1990).

Until recently, Australian companies were directly involved in logging tropical forests in the region but as far as can be ascertained, there are none doing so at present. However foreign companies with substantial Australian operations are heavily involved in the logging or woodchipping of tropical rainforests in the Asia Pacific region. The Marubeni Corporation, a huge Japanese conglomerate, is woodchipping the largest remaining area of mangroves in South east Asia at Bintuni Bay in Irian Jaya. Their woodchip concession was expanded by 57,000 hectares recently. The new area was excised from a strict nature reserve as a favour by the outgoing Minister of Forestry. Marubeni is a major importer of coal from Australia and a major exporter of Japanese products into Australia. The company is the second largest buyer of rainforest logs from Sarawak (JATAN 1990) and a major buyer of Australian woodchips (Marubeni 1989).

Bunnings, the West Australian woodchip company, recently sold its subsidiary Vanimo Forest Products, which operates PNG's largest timber development project, to WTK Realty, a Malaysian real estate company with logging concessions in Sarawak. The sale of the operations in the North-west corner of the country took place without any negotiation with the landowners, in direct contravention of the established rights of the local community. WTK or Chi Wong, the company's director, owns Richardson Wrench, a large Australian real estate chain (The Times, PNG March 1st 1990).

From 1982 to 1987, the Australian government gave the Perth based company Westralian Forest Industries more than \$2.1 million to log Fijian rainforests. Only \$500,000 in dividends was paid to Fijian shareholders. Very limited benefits reached the local people yet it was these communities that had to bear all the costs of the degradation and loss of their forests. (AIDAB 1989, Fiji Times July 21st 1989)

Asmus Maclean, a West Australian company formed a joint venture with PT Sansporinda Mandiri called Mamberamo Forest Products in order to exploit a 600,000 hectare logging concession of virgin rainforest in northern Irian Jaya. The company undertook to carry out an environmental impact study, but it was to be begun at the same time as the logging and would not have been ready until two years later. (Inside Indonesia Dec 1989). However, the concession was not granted. (The West Australian February 1st 1990).

The Snowy Mountains Engineering Corporation formed part of the venture that built the Batang Ai Dam in Sarawak, and the Export Finance and Insurance Corporation of Australia provided funding support. The dam inundated 8,500 hectares of rainforest, and involved the forced relocation of 3,000 Iban, one of Sarawak's indigenous tribes. In 1987, over 10 years since their relocation, a survey conducted among the Iban found that 78 per cent felt that they were worse off than before the dam was built; 80 per cent saw no future for their children, and 90 per cent wanted their children to leave the resettlement areas to seek employment in urban centres. Some of the oustees were moved to palm oil plantations where they have worked for more than a decade in 33 poverty. The promise of title to the land they worked has never been honoured and community leaders have been detained for months and severely intimidated for attempting to improve the situation for their people.

In the catchment forests of the dam, other displaced Iban are now farming unsuitable soils and endangering the last viable habitat of the Orang Utan in the state. The Federal Government has so far failed to assess the environmental and social impact of this project, or provide funding and support to clean up the mess it helped to create in one of the oldest and richest rainforests on Earth (Hong 1987, WRIV 1990, Anderson 1988).

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Papua New Guinea

FUNDS URGENTLY NEEDED TO SAVE PNG RAINFOREST

Earlier this year, the RIC was funded by AIDAB (Australian Development Assistance Bureau) for 3 of our crew to go over to PNG and the Solomon Islands for 3 months to do an ecological audit of a small portable sawmill, the Wokabout, which looks like a viable alternative to large scale industrial logging by the multinationals.

In many cases, the only thing that will stop a community from signing over timber rights to industrial loggers, is if the timber can have some value for them.

Well, Penny, Gum and Chris are back, and we're now preparing the next funding submissions for AIDAB to continue with this work.

However, before this can come through, we urgently need about A\$ 60,000 for 3 wokabout sawmills, a small secondhand boat etc. with which we can save 54,000 Ha of the last of the rainforest in Morobe Province from certain and imminent clearfelling by PNG Forest Products who have worked their way right around that coast for years and this is the last bit left.

We can do this by providing each of the three villages in Zia tribe with a sawmill and management plan: Each sawmill will mainly cut timber that needs cleaning up after clearing for gardens and plantations but in any case, after our crew visiting more than 20 existing Wokabout sawmill sites we are convinced that sustainable logging is possible on perhaps a 50 year rotation requiring just a few hundred ha per mill. The boat will get the timber to Lae for export.

No roads, no heavy machinery, (usually the most damaging part of logging in the tropics); four men carry the mill to the log, the planks are carried out.

We have the British Ecological Trading Co prepared to buy all the timber that they produce for about 25% over what they would get selling it anywhere else and ETC have budgeted 10% for monitoring that all the timber with our brand on it actually comes from a sustainable source.

So far the loggers have got no further than a wharf at the mouth of one of the rivers and built a shed and a clearing for a fuel dump (We've got a color slide of this and much of the story.)



No-one has actually signed a contract with The Company yet but its that close. And they're continuing to visit the villages attempting to negotiate contracts..

And HOW we're saving this forest (for about \$1/Ha) is totally revolutionary and an incredible model of how all the rainforests must be saved - by empowering the people who have always lived in them and cared for them to continue to do so. In PNG and much of the Pacific customary land ownership means that the fate of the forests is in the hands of local indigenous communities rather than governments. The people are very anxious for development and money and get sucked into selling their timber off to the logging company's.



If we can pull this off, it could throw a great spanner in the loggers' works right thru PNG and elsewhere and model a real alternative development scenario. With this in mind, the first thing Bau Village (one of the recipients) will build with the timber they mill is a guest house for students from all over who want to learn ecological tropical forestry and for ecotourists who want to see this and a PNG rainforest, swampforest, coastline islands, snorkelling coralreef with two big rivers.

Thus, as long as the management plan is adhered to, prosperity and sustainable development is assured. And if its NOT in fact sustainable, (I'll tell you in 1500 years) it's the best we know, the cheapest way of buying time for this particular piece of Paradise in case the human race wakes up in the next decade or so and decides it wants a bit of biosphere here and there.

I've just returned to Australia after 4 months of roadshows and workshops where I raised about A\$15,000 for rainforest conservation. I have committed all of this to this project which I believe will lead to the first sustainably produced tropical timber in the world.

Please help us to raise the rest of the money. Send some if you have it.

John Seed

P.N.G.

The people of the Naru-Gogol area of Madang Province, PNG, have written a petition demanding K15 million (\$US 15,075,000) compensation for the devastation of their land by JANT Pty Ltd, a Japanese company of which 90% is owned by the Honshu Paper Co.

If this money is not paid, the petition demands that the timber permit be returned to the local peoples and JANT leave immediately. The petition has been signed by over 1,100 people of the Naru-Gogol area to date (copies of the signatures are available upon request).

In its 16 years history, JANT PTY LTD has clearcut over 50,000 hectares (125,000 acres) of premium, virgin tropical rainforest in order to make paper. It is the only project in the world that chips tropical hardwoods to make paper (though the proposed Josephstaal project, also to be located in Madang Province, would also have a paper chip component). Thanks to transfer pricing, the company has never declared a profit and thus has avoided paying Papua New Guinean taxes and government royalties. The level of landowner royalties

is disgraceful. Landowners claim that once every 4 years each clan (with the average clan having 20 members) receives a K50-K100 (US\$52.50-105.00) cheque, KO.62-1.25/year (US\$.65-1.31/year) for every man, woman, and child. Other estimates place the level as high as K10/year (US\$10.50), though the exact level remains proprietary information of JANT. In exchange for this little money, the people have lost their entire way of life. The accompanying petition communicates the inadequacies of the JANT operation as only the landowners themselves can. The petition, both in English and Tok Pisin, was written in its entirety by the Naru-Gogol landowner's group. It is being distributed with the aid of Madang Citizens for a Better Environment. Of course, rainforest utilization is also a global concern. Every second of every day a rugby field size area of tropical rainforest is cut. Please commit yourself and your organization to helping the landowners of the Naru-Gogol area reclaim control over what is rightly theirs. This information is being distributed to you in the hope that it be publicized and distributed by any means at your disposal. Particularly useful would be sympathy petitions and letters of support for the landowners of the Naru-Gogol, written to the individuals listed below and on page 8. Thankyou for your support.

Mr. Malaum Mosol
Naru-Gogol Landowners Group,
Bemal Village, Trans-Gogol
P.O. Box 707
Madang,
Madang Province
Papua New Guinea.



SIGNING OF THE AGREEMENT

In the late 1960s an agreement was signed between the colonial administration, the Japanese based company (JANT PTY LTD) and the individuals said to be representatives of the people of Naru-Gogol-timber area.

The conditions back in colonial days were such that our fathers, with little or hardly any knowledge of the consequences of clear felling operation to be carried out by JANT, agreed to have their timbers and eventually their whole livelihood sold. With the promises of goods and services which would better their standard of living, they went on to literally sell their rich heritage for cheap exchange of limited timber rights, royalties and an insignificant value of services.

PARTS OF THE AGREEMENT

Some parts or sections of the agreement, as recalled by the peoples of the affected areas mentioned are:

Preservation of: a) Hardwoods, b) Sacred Grounds, c) Rare Species.

Better the livelihood of the peoples affected through: a) Better Road Services, b) Better Social Services, c) Economic Benefits.

Now the company has gone ahead to breach the agreement of sections of it whilst the Government continues to turn a blind eye to the plea of the peoples. Some of the sacred grounds are no longer visible. JANT continues the logging of hardwoods (especially kwiila) with ripe benefits worth millions of kina for the company and at the expense of our heritage and entire way of life.

No thoughts of conservation of rare species are considered when clear felling. Bush traditional medicine used by people are now hard to find. Better and reliable road and social ser-

vices expected by the people as stated in the agreement was and is still not provided by the company.

ENVIRONMENTAL DAMAGE

Since the establishment of JANT timber operation the environmental damage has not been compensated for by the timber royalties. Timber rights and other minor inputs of both the company and the government is not sufficient to compensate the peoples of the Naru-Gogol area for their rich heritage.

Apart from the destruction of sacred grounds, the top layer of the soil is beyond repair. The crops (especially grown by the people for their own consumption) can now not be harvested with great anticipation. Soil erosion has carried away minerals from the top layer. Bulldozers have totally bulldozed the top layer away during secondary harvest of replanted trees (kamarere). All these actions further degrade the top soil. The river system is not better off with chemical pollution. Oil, diesel, and petrol spills into water/streams have made the fish seek comfortable places; and in any case, away from the nets and hooks of the affected area and its peoples. The summary of the environmental damage done in Naru-Gogol area as seen through the eyes of the concerned peoples is that of a nature now no longer living in total harmony with the people.

DISPLACEMENT OF NATURE

The peoples of Naru-Gogol area are not properly compensated for the animals, birds, and fishes displaced by the actions of the timber operation. Birds have flown even further away. Fresh meat for daily diet is a luxury that is now no longer entertained in the huts of the Naru-Gogol peoples.

FREE USAGE

The people have not been compensated for the use of their gravel and hardwoods. Gravel taken from the river banks is used on the roads that go nowhere in particular but into the logging area to further enhance JANT's financial power. JANT has, through the ignorance and without the approval of our people, sold kwiila and other hardwoods worth millions of kina to sawmill companies such as Madang Timber and Taway Timbers which are not locally owned companies. These companies and JANT are the sole beneficiaries of such activities whilst the people are left at the losing end.

TEXT OF PETITION

Through the failure of JANT to adhere to the agreement as signed plus the environmental damage caused during its term of operation, the people of the affected area (Naru-Gogol) have now taken upon themselves the task of peacefully petitioning and demanding the duly elected Government of the people for compensation to be made by JANT PTY LTD. We demand that:-

1.) Not more than nor less than fifteen (15) million kina be given to a body as created by the Naru-Gogol people to be managed and used as authorised by the peoples' concern for their betterment and the restoring of our destroyed ground and rivers.

2.) The alternative is the relinquishment of JANT PTY LTD companies timber rights to the people of the Naru-Gogol with JANT immediately stopping the cutting and leaving the Naru-Gogol area.

3.) During any negotiations following this petition's release, the operations of JANT PTY LTD must come to an

immediate halt. During this time the National Government must work an extensive inquiry into why such abuses of our rights were allowed to happen in order to avoid similar exploitation of our brothers in the Josephstaal, Rai Coast & Sogeram areas. No money nor services in the world can replace the priceless heritage of the Naru-Gogol peoples. We urge the government to seriously consider this petition and act upon the demands with the welfare of the peoples of Naru-Gogol as their number one concern.



ACTION ALERT!

ACTION ALERT--AUGUST 15, 1990

Over 210,000 hectares (500,000+ acres) of virgin rainforest are nearing approval for clearcutting in Madang Province, Papua New Guinea. This is composed of three proposed timber areas; Josephstaal -100,000 hectares; Sogeram-56,480 hectares; and Rai Coast-60,000 hectares. Environmental and social justice issues are not being addressed, these include:

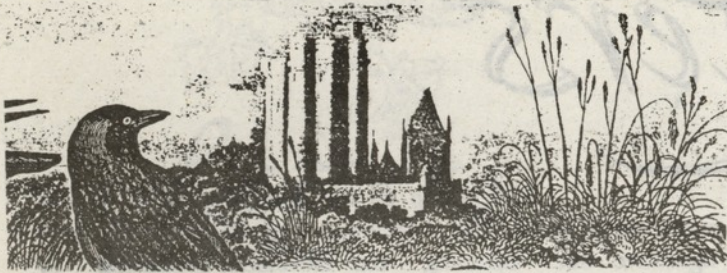
1.) Landowners are receiving K4.00 (US\$4.00) per cubic metre under the agreements. This is for highly valuable *kwiila*, *mon* and other premium species. When sold overseas by the Kosmos company, the Korean company which plans to log Josephstaal, they can expect to receive K250.00+ (US\$250.00) per cubic metre. The landowners are not being given any other development options and are largely uneducated concerning contracts, legal rights, the worth of their resource, potential environmental damage, etc.

2.) 1/3 of the Josephstaal clearcut will be used to make paper. This will be only the second time tropical hardwoods are used for paper production. The other; JANT, which is a Japanese company owned by Honshu paper, is also located in Madang Province and has clearcut 50,000 hectares+ to be used for paper.

3.) The National Government had placed a moratorium on new logging activities effective as of July 1, 1990. Despite an extension to July 20, 1990, negotiations still were not completed in time. Thus it was announced that 5 new areas of logging (including the 3 above) were exempt from the moratorium.

4.) The Papuan New Guinean government will be receiving large amounts of aid under the World Bank's Tropical Forest Action Plan. These funds are given largely on the basis of promoting "sustainable forestry." The actions of the past month must lead to serious questioning by donor and environmental NGO's on whether TFAP is having the desired results.

P.N.G.



150,000 ACRES SOLD

BEFORE TERMS OF CONTRACT NEGOTIATED !

The Rai Coast Timber Rights Purchase area is composed of 60,000 hectares (150,000 acres) of lowland rainforest.

It is unique in that the forest ends where the ocean beach begins. This is one of the few coastal areas in Madang Province, Papua New Guinea, which have not already been deforested because of the easy accessibility to foreign multinational timber corporations.

However, in this case, there may be a chance to save this unique ecosystem, though cutting recently commenced. This is because a number of discrepancies, incorrect procedures and outright illegalities involved in the granting of the timber permit by the National Department of Forests has lead the Madang Provincial government to call for the withdrawal of the Timber Rights Purchase pending fresh negotiations.

The timber permit has already been granted by the National Department of Forests to the Singaporean company Saban Pty. Ltd. The company is composed of the same management group, and lead by the same man, Mr. Hii, as three timber concessions which are currently suspended; namely, West New Britain/Lolo Development Corporation, Manus/Jaha Development Pty. Ltd., and Morobe/Umbai-Siasi. All three were suspended because the company, then named Monarch Investment, did not comply with terms and conditions of the timber permit.

Such habitual failure to follow through on contract terms lead to the company being named in the Barnett Forest Inquiry. The latest venture by Saban Pty. Ltd., appears to be an attempt to slip in and make short term profits in the same manner as previously while evading any attempt to implement Barnett Forest Inquiry findings.

Even more shocking is that the National Government issued the timber permit, which is a license granted to a company to actually begin cutting timber, before negotiations with Saban Pty. Ltd. had even been started. This amounts to giving permission to cut before the terms and conditions have even been decided.

This "cart before the horse approach" is highly irregular and will lead to great difficulty in the monitoring of the companies actions. Given the individuals that are involved with Saban Pty. Ltd. past track record, failure to even have the terms of monitoring established is an invitation to gross abuse of environmental, economic, and social concerns.

The Madang Provincial Government's Premier, Mr. Andrew Ariako has asked the National Department of Forests to withdraw the Timber Permit until such time that negotiations can commence. There has been no response as of yet.

When will the Barnett Forest Inquiry's findings be acted upon to stop the continuation of this type of abuse?

PLEASE TAKE THE TIME TO WRITE TO THE ADDRESSES LISTED ON THIS PAGE.....

WHEN FINISHED, PLEASE PASS THIS INFORMATION ON TO FRIENDS AND FAMILY. THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.

IN A DEMOCRACY SUCH AS PNG WRITING OR FAXING TO THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE WILL MAKE AN IMPACT:

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PRIME MINISTER
P.O. BOX 6605, BOROKO
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THE JAPANESE EMBASSY
P.O. BOX 1040
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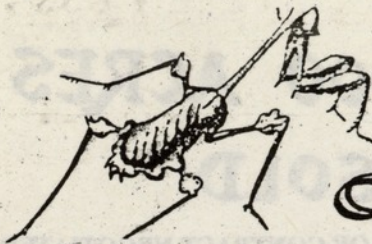
MADANG CITIZENS FOR A BETTER ENVIRONMENT
ATTN.: JOHN IGNATIUS
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PNG

MR. KARL STACK
MINISTER OF FORESTRY
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PNG

JANT PTY LTD
PO BOX 714
MADANG PNG



Letters

To the editor,

MRAG methods do tend to generate debate and this is a good thing. I respond to 'Lewey', WRR 16 re MRAG's relationship with the police. The argument against MRAG's methods begins with the statement that "the ultimate power of a government is its jails and its army and police force". It is at this basic level that the difference of opinions arises. MRAG operates from a nonviolent political perspective. This philosophy recognizes the state's ultimate power rests upon the cooperation of the people. A group which subverts the state's will, will seek to convince people not to cooperate with the state. In MRAG's context, we do actions and community education to encourage the people not to cooperate with the state sanctioned tropical timber trade. The police are most certainly people. If we can convince them not to cooperate with the state in even small ways the advantages will be enormous, and indeed have been. If ordered to arrest the police may well do so. It is how they go about their orders that is crucial. For example, by delaying arrests until our action is completed the police people can (and have) exhibit(ed) their solidarity with us, and be invaluable in our efforts to communicate with and involve other people. Indeed the police have become a valuable ally. I have had a superintendent obtain 100 "Police for Rainforests" stickers and tell me his entire command (sic) supports us. Clearly the power of the state to wield this weapon of repression is greatly diminished. (It was the refusal of previously loyal Czarist troops to obey orders that allowed the 1917 Russian revolution to proceed.) Conversely, rolling up the police as repressors by adhering to an 'us and them' polarity will do little to advance the cause of saving rainforests.

The MRAG approach is aimed at fostering mutual respect. This is a precondition for sound conflict resolution. We are in conflict with the power structures that bring about the destruction of this planet's forests. I believe there is nothing naive or inconsistent about MRAG's methods to obtain a resolution of this conflict that will save rainforests.

James Langley,

Melbourne Rainforest Action Group.

To WRR, Attention all kids of the world, please help the members of our rainforest action groups. My mum tells me that tropical rainforests only cover 1% of Australia's land mass and in our state, N.S.W. we only have small remnants left. Please help raise money to support the rainforests. They will all disappear before I reach 30 years of age and now I am 12. These primary forests are beautiful places to visit and they are very rare.

Write to me at the Rainforest Information Centre P.O. Box 368, Lismore Australia. All kids working together will make a future for us.

Yours truly,

Leanne Leplaw

Keep up the good work. No. 16 was particularly good. The meaning of "signal"(p.32) is a figurative one meaning the movement-producing or change-producing function of their policy decision. In other words, they are looking at a movement away from from all the evils of clear-felling of rainforest timber. This points up the appropriateness of Donald Duck's comment that the Netherlands has been sold out by their Minister. The intent of the Draft policy is to produce sweeping change, not the minor concession of Minister Bukman. However, in harmony with the slow ways of the Dutch, particularly when their interests are at stake, the plans are "long term" plans, sad to say, when the action required is instantant.

Best wishes,

Keith Moxon

Dear Editors,

I would like to reply to James Langley's letter. The enormous quantity of self-contradictory remarks, logical inconsistencies and plain misunderstandings makes this quite a difficult task.

Firstly, let me draw your attention to my original reason for writing which was, quite simply, to point out that a "...high level of dialogue", or "discipline" are no guarantee that cops won't arrest demonstrators.

To impute, for whatever reason, that such things are any guarantee of protection from police harassment is complete nonsense. There is no inherent or causal relation between the two. Such an implication is pure mystification. In reality, it will not help the practical achievement of any goals. If anything, such an attitude will tend to make protestors more ineffectual. For some reason James ignores my comment that police are part of the repressive state apparatus. Yes James, police are people but that in itself is a pretty meaningless statement. Where individuals can identify themselves so completely with the state that they are willing to kill, or even die, to protect its interests it seems pretty meaningless to be making overtures to their "better nature". Indeed, this notion of better nature has more than a little bearing on the matter - the idea that humanity is divided within itself into good and evil is an anachronistic hang-over from christianity. It functions to divide us from our instinctual nature - which is neither good nor bad, but has been labelled and repressed by generations of christian civilization. Its role is to create a false consciousness, that people are somehow "better" or "above" nature. This ethic is the substantive justification for our technological domination of nature in the first place.

Perhaps it did not occur to you that your highly valued friendship with the police is a convenient propaganda tool for the very state which you claim you are trying to subvert.

Your reference to the Russian troops underlines the fact that the situation in Australia is patently not one of revolution. I don't doubt that such a thing could take place



Letters

in Australia. But, the fact remains, that the cops did not participate in the action, they do not have a revolutionary consciousness (whatever that is). They were there to see that things did not get out of hand and threaten any real interests.

"Rolling up the police as repressors..." is no more divisive than stating a fact, it is a recognition that in reality, to many workers, Aborigines, unemployed youth and women the cops are synonymous with the baton, the gun and violence. Your inability to see this may well be a form of social insensitivity pertaining to a privileged position in society - young white middle-class male.

When you say "...the MRAG approach is aimed at fostering mutual respect. This is a precondition for sound conflict resolution." you are making a statement of belief. But you fail to say why others should believe as you do.

Despite all that James says I am forced back to my original position: Why should greens act in ways which serve to reinforce the power of the state or its functionaries? The question still remains to be answered.

"Police for rainforests" stickers certainly won't stop the decimation of the earth's forests. But by ridding ourselves of some of the preconceptions with which we have been lumbered by history we may begin to see the forests for the trees.

Ciao, Lewey

Scenes from the year 2000:
The last elephant hides in the
last rain forest.



Burma

The biggest news is a U.N.D.P. programme for Burma. This one has green edges to it, and I would like to hear your thinking on it. It has the potential of bringing the green movement in to alliance with a military regime, against a human rights movement!! The UNDP/ESCAP has printed in Environmental News (first volume, this year) a summary of meeting they had with the SLORC (State Law and Order Restoration Council) regime in Rangoon. It gives a glowing description of the Myanmar selective cutting system and "integrated forest management". Through the UNDP, the SLORC government has agreed to let international nongovernmental organizations come into Burma and run, without any interference from the government, a programme to reforest, and maintain an area known as the 'dry zone' just south of Mandalay. This is to be a "world show committed 2.5 million dollars US to support any NGOs wanting to get involved. Then, near a border area, the government has suggested the UNDP help them create a "world park" where timbering and mineral extraction will be done in a way not to disrupt the ecosystem. The UNDP has committed 17.5 million dollars US as seed money, and will try to attract NGOS to take up this project also. Sounds great, eh? Closer examination. The world park is being planned for one of the insurgent held zones, which the government has not been able to dislodge in the 40 years of war, mainly because of inaccessibility of the area. Is it curious that the UNDP 17.5 million is earmarked for roads? Or that the government has asked for satellite photography of the area for "management planning". None of this is noted in the UNDP report, nor have they had any discussions with the people living in that area. As a matter of fact, the UNDP people have had no contact, to the best of our knowledge, with anyone representing the legal opposition which won the last election in Burma, but to whom the military regime has so far not allowed to form into a government, or hand over any governmental functions to.

Few other NGOS have been allowed to work within Burma. The International Committee of the Red Cross airlifted 10 tons of medical supplies into Burma during the last uprising, with guarantees that it would reach the affected population. They now report that most of it has found its way into army stores, and it is doubtful that the civilian population received any of it. What any NGO going to Burma must realize is that the SLORC and previous governments apply a military solution to every problem. There is a military, or political advantage to any programme they will allow in the country. None of this UN. In a sad interpretation of the concept of neutrality, the UN has let itself be an endorser of the powerholders in this conflict. At a Ministerial level meeting in Bangkok, scheduled for this week, the UNDP will reveal its proposals for development projects throughout SE Asia, and invite the participation of the international community and NGOS in the same. It is expected that the project in Burma will be quietly pushed at this meeting. More material coming in my next communique.

-Yeshua

Japan

JAPANESE ENVIRONMENTALISTS LAUNCH MAJOR OFFENSIVE AGAINST TROPICAL FOREST WRECKERS FOR WORLD RAINFOREST WEEK

The Rainforest Information Centre recently received an important press release from Japan's rainforest rebels, including Japan Tropical Forest Action Network(JATAN), Friends of the Earth, Rainforest Foundation and the Sarawak Campaign Committee outlining their intensive program of activities for

World Rainforest Week 1990: World Rainforest Week is to be celebrated for the first time in Japan. A full line up of activities is scheduled to reach the public with the message of the beauty, uniqueness and value of the world's rainforests, and the crisis facing the remaining areas as well as the crisis facing forest dwellers such as the Penan of Sarawak, Malaysia. Although Japan has no tropical rainforests itself, Japan holds the position of number one in tropical timber trade, with 90% of its imported tropical timber coming from the state of Sarawak, and has been the focus of international criticism in recent years. A greater awareness of the issues within Japan is critical for the survival of these precious ecosystems.

Our Japanese colleagues have organized a week-long fiesta of seminars, publicity events, concerts, television programs



and a traditional-style Dragon Dance lead by Japanese eco-star Godzilla (see other Godzilla story this issue). The twenty metre long replica of the sixty's movie monster visited the offices of Nichimen, Nissho Iwai, C. Itoh, Sumitomo, Mitsui and Mitsubishi to protest the roles that these companies are playing in the destruction of the world's tropical rainforests. Other activities include a mailing campaign aimed at the director of the International Tropical Timber Organization, based in Yokohama, which plays a central role of influence in the global tropical timber trade, and will be holding its annual general meeting in Yokohama in November this year. The letters will call for a moratorium on tropical timber imports until indigenous people's rights are recognised, and logging is done sustainably.

OTHER EVENTS AROUND THE WORLD

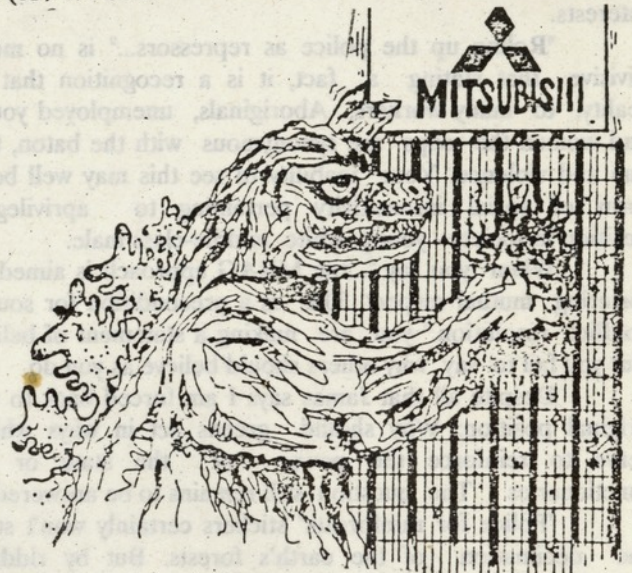
Forty other countries (including Italy, Germany, Denmark, Netherlands, Australia, Switzerland and Sweden) will be holding various events (see Australian section for report on World Rainforest Week protest). The focus of this week's World

Rainforest Week is a campaign targetting Mitsubishi and Nissan for their role in rainforest destruction. Many countries are mounting high profile campaigns against Japan's large forest trading companies. Netherlands is targetting McDonalds, claiming that firm is responsible for clearing of the Amazon for ranches for beef cattle production. For further information about JATAN and the organizations mentioned in this article contact the following addresses.

FRIENDS OF THE EARTH JAPAN - tel (03) 770-5287; fax (03) 770-0727

JATAN - tel (03) 770-6308; fax (03) 770-0966

RAINFOREST FOUNDATION JAPAN: (03) 477-2589; fax (03) 477-0966



Quotes

The idea of having an enquiry into the value and proposed management of Fraser Island whilst simultaneously allowing the logging to occur would seem comparable to assessing the value of a Ming Dynasty vase while using it to play football. - Brisbane RAG/TWS information sheet on Fraser Island

We did not think of the great open plains, the beautiful rolling hills and the winding streams with tangled growth as wild. Only to the white man was nature a wilderness and only to him was the land infested with wild animals and "savage" people. To us it was tame. There was no wilderness; since nature was not dangerous but hospitable; not forbidding but friendly. Chief Luther Standing Bear

The development of mankind is tied in the most intimate fashion with the natural environment. A secret harmony is established between the earth and the people which it nourishes, and when impudent societies permit themselves to lay a hand on what makes the beauty of their domain, they always end up regretting it. -Elisee Reclus(19th century geographer and ecologist)

World Roundup

GOLD - OUR FATAL WEAKNESS

In our greed for gold, rainforests are dying all over the world; from Brazil to Borneo, Zaire to New Guinea. Aboriginal forest-dwellers are being killed by the gold prospectors or by the illnesses that they have imported, in a search for gold which is largely unnecessary: 77% of all gold mined is used in the making of jewellery, 15% in the minting of gold coins. In the last 3 years, Roraima, the most northerly province in Brazil, has become a kind of El Dorado. Between forty and one hundred-thousand prospectors have advanced into previously virgin rainforest. In the tiny provincial town of Boa Vista, supply planes land constantly, take-off again with provisions for the gold camps. All supplies needed, including the large quantities of diesel oil to run the pumps, are flown into the jungle. There's more activity here than on the runways of the airport in Brasilia, the country's capital. It is not only the forest which is dying at the hands of the gold-prospectors with their bush-knives and machetes, not only the topsoil which is being plundered: Roraima is the home of the last great Indian tribe on the borders of Venezuela, the Yanomami. The search for gold is destroying their forest. Unaccustomed diseases such as malaria have decimated their numbers. In those places where they do not hand over their land voluntarily they are driven away or killed, the women misused or forced into prostitution. "The Indian-hunting season is open," is how Manuela Carneira da Cunha, chairwoman of the Brazilian Society of Anthropologists, has summarised this disturbing aspect of the goldrush. The Brazilian President pledged by turns to banish the gold diggers from Indian territory altogether and then succumbs once more to the supreme pressure of finance. For apart from the many thousands of prospectors, there are also pilots, middlemen, speculators and politicians to consider; all of them dependent on the gold trade. High levels of investment are necessary for all the aircraft, diesel oil and machinery required. "If the market price of gold was to sink from 20,00 to 15,000 francs," says Pierette Birraux-Ziegler, from the CIP in Geneva (an institute for the consensus documentation of indigenous peoples), "the search for gold in Yanomami-territory would become unprofitable. Prospecting would be suspended." In underground vaults in Frankfurt, on the premises of the German Bundesbank, behind metre-thick concrete and guarded by armed marksmen in a manner more fitting to a nuclear arsenal, are Germany's gold reserves. The Bundesbank has two million, ninehundred and sixty thousand kilograms of gold to call its own. A part of this hoard is held in Fort Knox, together with the USA's own national reserves, almost three-times those owned by Germany. For thousands of years "the barbarous metal" (according to the economist John Maynard Keynes) has served as money. New gold strikes were followed by booming trade, without gold the economy of countless countries floundered. Nevertheless, central, state-banks all over the world's hoard gold with a total worth of six-hundred-billion dollars - the equivalent of

half the debt of the Third World. The sale of this bullion would meet the entire demand for gold, including jewellery and coinage, for the next fifteen years. Were mankind to do entirely without gold jewellery and coins, this stockpile would be so considerable as to cover our needs for one-hundred-and-fifty years. The gold stocks in Germany's Bundesbank alone are worth some sixty-billion German marks. If gold was not hoarded in such quantities and some of these reserves were to be sold-off, it would initiate: "a fall in the price of gold, thereby making further production unprofitable," wrote the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung. The rainforest would be at peace again.

source: Regenworld Report, no. 1/90, Chris Bell, 1990

GREENPEACE AND RAINFOREST ACTION NETWORK PROTEST WORLD BANK "CHAINSAW MASSACRE" OF TROPICAL FORESTS

September 26, 1990 WASHINGTON, DC (GP) - Greenpeace and Rainforest Action Network (RAN) Wednesday morning deployed a giant 26 x 6 ft. steel chainsaw at the entrance of the Sheraton Washington Hotel located at 2660 Woodley Road, NW, to oppose World Bank funded tropical deforestation. The protest coincided with the Annual Meeting of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) to expose how World Bank projects, especially those conducted under the Tropical Forestry Action Plan (TFAP), are increasing tropical deforestation. The chainsaw was constructed of steel with a message that read: "World Bank, Stop the Tropical Forests Axing Plan."

Crafted in 1985 by the World Bank, United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and the World Resources Institute, TFAP was devised to allocate US\$8 billion over a five year period to ostensibly "control" rapid tropical deforestation.

"The World Bank is holding a 'blue light special' on remaining tropical forests. While boasting its new found environmental role, the Bank is financing new projects that will significantly damage these ecosystems. Two such projects have already been approved for Indonesia and Guinea," said Meg Ruby, Tropical Forests Campaigner for Greenpeace.

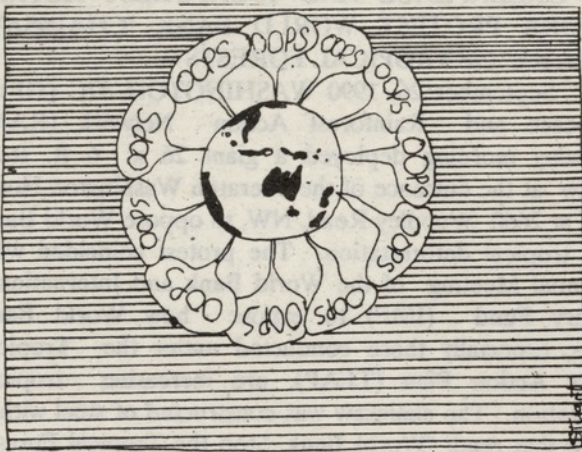
Tropical forests are disappearing at a rate of 145 acres a minute, an area lost comparable to the size of Arizona each year. At this pace, scientists predict that a quarter of all forest plant and animal species will vanish by 2050. These species include important ingredients for cancer cures, birth control pills and heart medicines. Greenpeace and RAN, together with other 50 organizations, are calling for a moratorium on activities and additional funding for the TFAP process. In addition, these groups are calling on the World Bank to stop funding deforestation caused by other forestry loans and sectoral activities such as dams, roads, mining and agricultural schemes.

World Roundup

"There is no such thing as sustainable logging in the rainforests. The Bank should get out of the rainforests until it learns to listen to the local people who provide the only examples of sustainable use of these forests," said Patrick Anderson, European Coordinator, Greenpeace Tropical Forest Campaign.

In order to implement the necessary changes, the World Bank must shift its focus from purely commercial interests to genuine conservation guidelines. Necessary steps include a complete overhaul of the original guiding concepts of the TFAP and the World Bank's existing forestry policy, so as to recognize the extreme sensitivity of these forests and their importance for forest dwelling peoples.

"The Bank's not funding development, it is funding destruction. At the Bank there is no such thing as foresters, only deforesters," said Randy Hayes, Rainforest Action Network.



TREES AND THE GREENHOUSE EFFECT

A recent CSIRO article makes some interesting points regarding the ability of massive tree planting programs to reduce the greenhouse effect. Carbon dioxide is one of the main greenhouse gases. It is present in only low concentrations, but is very important for plants which take it up and store it, until they are broken down by burning, decay, or the exhaled breath of animals like us who eat plants. About 80-85% of the additional CO₂ that is going into the atmosphere comes from the burning of fossil fuels, which are a form of carbon store. The rate of fossil fuel burning is so large that even with the planting of huge numbers of trees, on good agricultural land, the amount of CO₂ taken up will not match that currently being released. There are a number of advantages to planting trees, but a mature forest acts as a store of CO₂ rather than taking up more than it produces from decay. A mature forest has other advantages, for example it slows the rate of oxidization of material in the soil. The CSIRO report looks at a number of options for reducing the greenhouse effect through planting trees, but the conclusion is that we are consuming too many fossil fuels to give the trees a chance of keeping up. A number of suggestions are made: plantation timber could be harvested after it has reached maturity, and made into things with long term use (and therefore long

term storage value); wood could be burned as a renewable energy source, rather than fossil fuels which could be left in storage (although wood burning is inefficient and brings its own local air pollution problems).

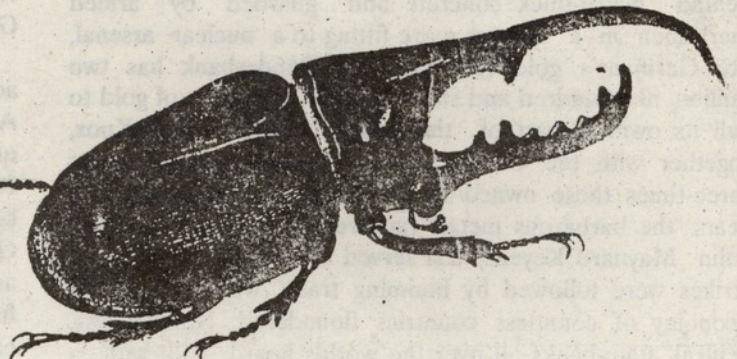
Australians have the fifth highest per capita production of CO₂ in the world and although the report does not suggest that we undertake a massive reduction in fossil fuel use, it seems to be the only possible solution.

source:Ecos 64, CSIRO Winter 1990

GODZILLA JOINS FIGHT TO SAVE

RAINFORESTS Godzilla has joined the environmental struggle to save the earth's rainforests. The fabulous Japanese low-budget movie monster has come out of retirement to become the official mascot for **WORLD RAINFOREST WEEK** which takes place between October 20th and 28 (see story this issue) and to support two San Francisco-based environmental groups who are trying to stop Japanese logging companies from destroying endangered tropical rain forests. The groups, the Rainforest Action Network and the International Rivers Network, point out that Godzilla historically has been "Japan's leading environmentalist." They feel she merits the title because in all of her old movies, she is motivated to attack and destroy cities only after humans have messed with her habitat. She was also created by an environmental disaster - a nuclear explosion - and has to go around gobbling up nuclear power plants just to maintain a well balanced diet. Looking a trim and petite 9 feet tall Godzilla showed her solidarity with the earth by joining in a picket of the U.S. headquarters of Mitsubishi Corp.. A half-dozen large, look-alike Godzilla helium-balloons floated menacingly above the picket line. Godzilla and her human accomplices are picketing Mitsubishi for their role, via subsidiaries, of conducting 24-hour-a day logging operations which are destroying the homelands of Penan, Kenyah and other indigenous people in Borneo (see report on Malaysia in World Roundup). Godzilla rejects the notion that her activities are a form of anti-Japanese racism and points out that she is acting in solidarity with Japanese environmental groups who also oppose the logging.

source: The Wall Street Journal



World Roundup (cont'd)

NEW ZEALAND GROUP TO UNDERTAKE RAINFOREST REGENERATION

WELLINGTON (AAP). AOTEAROA. New Zealand's Native Forest Restoration Trust has been given 6000 hectares of pine forest in the country's Central North Island to allow what could be the world's largest rainforest reafforestation program.

The Labour Government has handed over control of the exotic plantations as part of its conservation and environment policy.

The trust is to undertake a 20-year program to allow indigenous trees to recover the Pureora Forest, west of Lake Taupo, as the exotics are felled.

The forest, which has the world's last remnants of giant 1000-year-old Totara trees, as well as many rare forest birds including the endangered Kokako and Kaka, was the scene of strong anti-logging protests in the late 1970s.

The trust said the restoration program, which would be self funded by disposal of the exotic plantations, was estimated to cost about \$8 million.

Trust spokesperson Steven King said the gift of 6000ha of pine forest which surrounded the Totara trees would allow the native tree replanting program to go ahead. He said it would be the world's largest rainforest restoration project.

Trust chairman Alan Lewis: "We know it won't be a short exercise. It will take many years before it is completed and even more years before the trees are up to the same size they were before they were felled in the 1970s. "But the important thing is the beginning", he said.

source: The Northern Star 24/10/90



NATIVE AMERICANS ORGANIZE TO SAVE THE EARTH

Brazilian Kayapo Indians will meet with Inuit and Cree from northern Quebec to raise public awareness around destructive development. While world attention has been rivetted on the destruction of tropical rainforests, the destruction of the Arctic and sub-Arctic has received little public notice. Described as the sleeper issue of the decade, the massive James Bay hydro-development projects in northern Canada threaten global climate change, severe mercury and PCB contamination of the northern waters and the entire food chain of northern Quebec, and the drowning of thousands of square miles of Inuit and Cree homelands.

Like the development occurring in the Amazon, the situation in northern Quebec involves the lands and resources which belong to aboriginal peoples, destructive exploitation of those lands by industry, colonization, destruction of wildlife and human habitats, loss of

species and global scale climate impacts. "The land is dying. It is our homeland. This is the 21st century, and our land is being stolen from our children. This pattern must be condemned." -Chief Matthew Coon-Come, Grand Council of the Cree.

To bring the linked issues to the attention of the world, the Kayapo Indians from Brazil, and the Inuit and Cree from Great Whale Village, Quebec, and the Grand Council of the Cree of Quebec are launching a week long tour of New York, Montreal, and Great Whale.

The Kayapo are now famous for successfully organizing to stop a World Bank funded mega-dam in Altamira, Brazil. The Cree and Inuit have been struggling to stop a massive dam project in the north, called the Hydro Quebec, or James Bay Projects. At Great Whale, a village in Northern Quebec, Sierra Club President Sue Merrow presented the prestigious Chico Mendes award to Kuben'i for his organizing work to save the Brazilian Rainforest. The visit to Great Whale was also an opportunity to tour the earlier hydro-development projects on James Bay, to fully grasp the scale of the development and its impacts on the surrounding environment. The tour was organized and co-produced by the Arctic to Amazonia Alliance, the Grand Council of the Cree of Quebec, the James Bay Defense Coalition, the Sierra Club Native American Sites Committee's James Bay Task Force, and the communities of Whapmagoostui (Cree) and Kuujuaaraapik (Inuit) at Great Whale.

source:Econet

**MALAYSIAN GOVT. PLANS TO DESTROY
MANGROVES** The Malaysian Government has announced a land reclamation project that will destroy 98,334 ha. of mangroves (90% of Peninsular Malaysia's total) on the west coast of the Peninsular. The aim is to extend the land to a width of up to 3.2 km. into the Straits of Malacca for industries, airports and housing. (What about the fish that breed in mangroves? ed.) Environmentalists and consumer groups are protesting against the project which has been put forward as an answer to the country's fast growing population, which is increasing at the rate of 340,000 per year. source: Sahabat Alam, Malaysia in Oryx, v.4, July 1990

**INDIGENOUS CHILEANS NEED HELP FOR
SELF HELP** The Mapuche, the indigenous people of Chile have developed a bold proposal for reforestation of degraded lands. It involved the propagation, production and planting of specifically native plants for the benefit of both people and land. 1992 marks 500 years of persecution, discrimination and dispossession of land for the Mapuche people. They have lost 95% of their land, and witnessed their culture and identity being deliberately broken up.

Their problems have been increased by companies exploiting their natural resources ie. indiscriminate logging. In many cases this has brought species of trees to the brink of extinction, leaving the land infertile and ecosystems ravaged. The Trade Union Association of Mapuche People aims to counter this trend by establishing a plant tissue culture laboratory and a nursery with the idea of selling trees to the government and private sector. This would have a number of benefits:

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1. regeneration of native flora and fauna
2. soil improvement
3. employment of indigenous people
4. creation of spin-off projects, eg. crafts, arts
5. stimulation of other self-help projects
6. strengthening of indigenous identity and dignity. For details of how you can contribute this self-help project contact: Association Cremial del Pueblo Mapuche Califulican Casilla 57, Coreo Lanco, XII Region, Chile



PALAWAN UNSPOILT HABITATS BEING DESTROYED

Palawan, the Philippines' fifth largest island, still possesses unspoilt habitats but they are being destroyed by logging, dynamite and cyanide fishing, tourist development and mineral exploration. The Haribon Foundation is pressing for Palawan to be declared an 'integrated protected area', pointing to a government study that says the islands economy does not need to rely on logging but could derive sufficient income from sustainable fishing and wildlife tourism.

source: Sahabat Alam, Malaysia in Oryx, v.4, July 1990

ILLEGAL LOGGING IN IRIAN JAYA An Indonesian logging concern financed by a Japanese corporation is illegally logging mangrove forests in Bintuni Bay, Irian Jaya. An Indonesian company, PT Bintuni Utama, acquired a 137,000 ha. forest concession in the bay in 1988 and built a woodchip factory, partly financed by the Murubeni Corporation of Japan, which also buys the woodchips. Bintuni Utama has been logging without making the legally required environmental impact assessment and has been breaking logging regulations. Protestors say that logging should stop altogether until the mangroves regenerate.

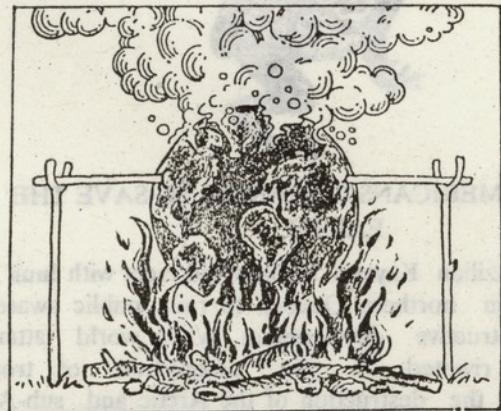
source: Sahabat Alam, Malaysia

GUNUNG GADING NATIONAL PARK UNDER FIRE FROM LOGGERS The Gunung Gading National Park in Malaysia has been licensed out to Syarikat Sanyan Lumber Sdn. Bhd. for logging. In fact the company has already begun logging outside the park on land belonging to local villagers. The company is presently at work constructing a road to the park. Logging is expected to begin as soon as the road is com-

pleted. Gunung Gading which is located in the Lundu District is to the south-west of the Kuching Division. The area is part of an important water catchment area which feeds some 20 rivers which provides water for more than 35 villages downstream. source: Sahabat Alam Malaysia, Sept. 30 1990

BOFFINS PLANNING TO PLAY GOD Boffins in Australia and the U.S. are warming up to play god with the earth's environment in what they see as a "realistic" solution to the greenhouse effect. The theory, which has been receiving enthusiastic endorsement, goes: if iron pellets are dumped en masse into the oceans it will stimulate algae growth which will then absorb vast quantities of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. The proposal is based on findings by Dr. John Martin of California that marine phyto-plankton are limited in their growth potential by lack of iron. The idea is receiving support from respected bodies such as the National Research Council, an arm of the U.S. National Academy of Science and Engineering. The cost of implementing such a scheme would run into billions of dollars, while the ecological results could be devastating. Rather than tackling the politically powerful oil and motor manufacturers who are the real cause of the problem the mad scientist brigade prefers to advocate playing Russian-roulette with our seas. Anthony Michaels, a research scientist with the Bermuda Biological Station for Research admits that the theory has flaws, "It's an enticing idea that is being actively pursued. If you start playing god with the system, we don't understand it well enough to know what the outcome would be. The whole food web could be altered." As we know too well, they've never let a little thing like a global eco-system stand in their way before.

source: The Washington Post

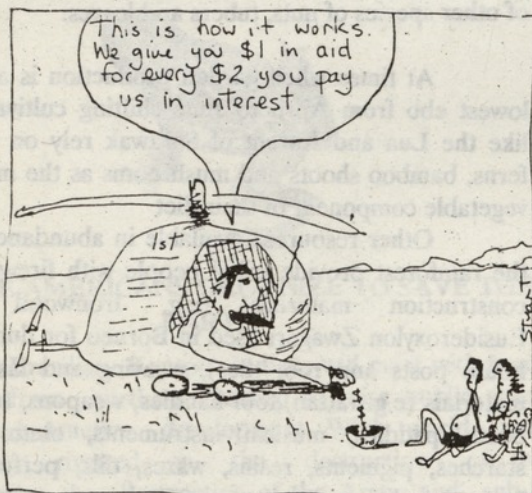


LAST STAND FOR FILIPINO TREES Napsan, Philippines.- The devastation is overwhelming. The stumps of thousands of illegally felled trees line the hills. Piled on the beaches planks of teak and ebony wait to be smuggled away. Logging trucks bribe their way past military checkpoints. The air is alive with the sound of chainsaws. Amid worldwide concern over shrinking tropical forests, home to half of the known species of life, scientists say the Philippines may be depleting that resource faster than any other country. A recent study by the U.S. Agency for International Aid (AID) says the Philippines may cut its last remaining primary hardwood forests in 7 to 12 years. It is difficult to exaggerate the impact. Probably half of the

World Roundup

nation's endemic forest species are already lost, and one third of the watersheds are "critically denuded" the report said. As the forests disappear, topsoil runoff clogs rivers and kills critical mangrove forests, coral reefs and fishing areas. The erosion ruins farmland and contributes to floods and landslides. The report concludes that "it is entirely likely that the Philippines will experience increasing poverty and despair and a downward spiral into the ranks of the very poorest of nations." Landless slash and burn farmers as well as loggers are often blamed for the despoliation of forest soils. But is it really the fault of the farmers? "Since there is no land reform, they have no land," said Fulgencio S. Factoran Jr. Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. "So they go up, burn the forest and farm. There's no livelihood for them anywhere else." He estimates that the Philippines has "five years until our biodiversity will be lost," extinguishing a unique genetic and biological pool. The problem is political as well as environmental. The three-year-old congress has not passed a single environmental law. Many members are closely tied to logging interests. President Corazon Aquino's government finally began to move last year. It banned the export of lumber, limited logging on steep hills and mountaintops and banned logging in some devastated provinces. But with few forest guards, enforcement is meagre. The depths of the degradation of the forests became clear only in 1988 when it was found that less than the one-quarter area which was believed to be treed actually contained trees. It is estimated that less than 2 million acres of old-growth forest survives, barely 4% of the original forest cover.

source: The Los Angeles Times



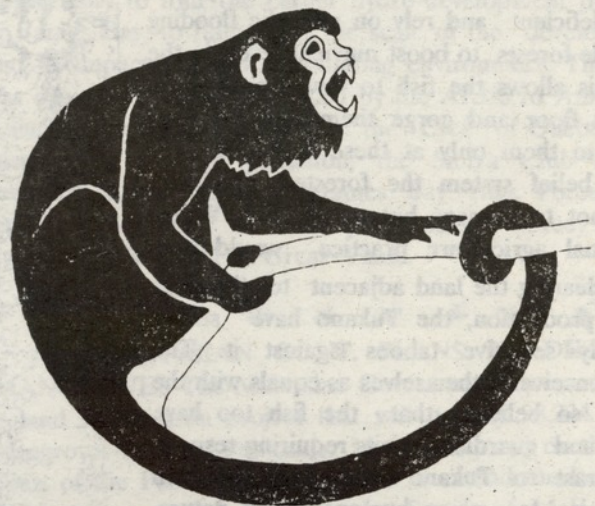
TROPICAL FORESTRY ACTION PLAN A FLOP

The official plan to halt rainforest destruction being promoted by the World Bank and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) is flawed and will actually accelerate forest loss, according to a report released by the Malaysian World Rainforest Movement.

Seventy four tropical countries and over twenty government agencies are involved in the World Bank/FAO mega-plan, which attempts to mobilize an \$8 billion plan to halt deforestation and promote sustainable development. Launched in

1985, Tropical Forestry Action Plan (TFAP) was intended to coordinate international development projects in tropical forest countries that assembled "national forestry action plans" to ensure a rational use of resources. The national plans were meant to review third world country economies to identify the causes of forest loss and develop a coordinated package of measures to reverse this process while securing citizen's welfare.

However, the World Rainforest Movement report reveals that the TFAP is failing to achieve its stated goals. Although the invasion of forest areas by landless settlers is commonly identified as the single largest cause of forest destruction, the national plans avoid confronting this politically delicate issue. Worse, at the same time as failing to stem the invasion of the forests, the national plans promote logging in primary forests. Globally, tropical forests are disappearing at the rate of some 142,000 sq. km. a year, while an additional 200,000 sq. km. are being seriously degraded. source: Sierra Club (US)



PNG CAMPAIGN CONTINUES - DOB IN MARUBENI AND HELP SAVE A RAINFOREST As part of the New Guinea Island Campaign we have received a request for support and information regarding the activities of the MARUBENI CORPORATION (JAPAN). The aim of the campaign is to produce a dossier that can be used by activists and be presented to politicians who are interested in the company's activities. This is especially appropriate right now due to the proposed logging in Chile and the beginning of 2-4-D production in Malaysia. Marubeni's activities have included the clearfelling of mangroves in Bintuni Bay. Marubeni is the largest importer of tropical timber into Japan (10,570 cub.metres) as well as the largest importer of logs from Sarawak. In order to reveal the extent of their nasty doings a report is currently being produced detailing their activities which will be distributed to all concerned bodies. If you can help with any information contact:

Susan Polden
PO Box 2120,
Darwin, N.T. 0801 Australia
or. E-mail peg:spolden

Financial help is also required and if you are able to help in this way please forward some money to the address above.

Biodiversity:

Sustainable resource use in the tropics - the experience of tribal rainforest dwellers. Nick Hopkins looks at the lifestyle and intimate knowledge of the environment that links tribal people, through their spiritual beliefs, with their environment.

HUMAN SPIRITUALITY AS A SAFEGUARD OF GENETIC DIVERSITY

Living wholly within the rainforest environment tribal forest dwellers have developed intricate mythologies and comprehensive religious beliefs reflecting the sacredness of the forest. Their attitude of reverence ensures that the resources are never squandered but are used wisely and rationally. One classic example of this spiritual aspect is the relationship of the Tukano Indians of Brazil to the fish they depend upon for protein. The river systems with the Tukano territory are nutrient deficient and rely on periodic flooding of riverside forests to boost nutrient levels in the water. This allows the fish to swim around on the forest floor and gorge themselves on food available to them only at these times. In the Tukano belief system the forested riverbanks belong not to humans but to the fish. Where conventional agriculture practice would have involved clearing the land adjacent to the river for crop production, the Tukano have strong ecologically sensitive taboos against it. The Tukano conceive of themselves as equals with the fish and so believe that the fish too have ancestors and guardian spirits requiring respect. In contrast to Tukano beliefs the Western approach is to place humans above nature, therein lies the basis of the unintelligent environmental destruction characterising modern societies.

HUMAN USE OF ANIMAL SPECIES

Tribal forest dwellers, however, are also entirely capable of unsustainable hunting activity. Given access to new weapons, outboard motors, headlamps, hunting dogs and other items of imported technology tribal groups on the fringe of cash economy can overhunt to serious extents catering to the demands of foreign or domestic markets. For example, the hunting practices of the Miskito Indians of Nicaragua have either depleted or exterminated hawksbill turtles, crocodiles, caiman, otters, spotted cats and lobsters. Left

to themselves, however, tribal people generally respect the role of animals in the ecology and restrain themselves from overhunting.

Between the two models of domesticated animal husbandry and wild game hunting there exists an expanse of techniques used by tribal people. For example, the Kayapo Indians of Brazil are able to lure certain types of bees into their garden areas to increase crop production. Many different Indian groups bring decaying tree trunks closer to home and garden sites to attract beetles which lay eggs and eventually produce larvae or grubs with high protein value. The Kayapo again use certain leaf-cutting species of ants to help convert newly cut plant matter into composted mulch. A common larger management strategy used by Indians is to plant in their swidden plots species which not only go on bearing long after the plots have been ostensibly abandoned but which also attract wild pigs, paca, coati, deer, macaw, parrots and other animals. This effectively creates small pockets throughout the forest with artificially high concentrations of game.

HUMAN USE OF PLANT SPECIES

Tribal people, of course, also make extensive and sustainable use of forest plants. The Tiruray, for example, gather some 223 basic plant types including wild yams, vegetables, seeds, nut pods, and wild fruits. The Kayapo gather 250 species of fruit alone, and hundreds of other species of nuts, tubers and leaves.

At times when garden production is at its lowest ebb from April to June shifting cultivators like the Lua and Karem of Sarawak rely on wild ferns, bamboo shoots and mushrooms as the major vegetable component of their diet

Other resources available in abundance in the rainforest provide tribal people with firewood, construction materials (e.g. Ironwood or Eusideroxylon Zwageri used in Borneo for durable house posts and roof tiles), weaving and lashing materials (e.g. rattan), tool handles, weapons, traps, boats, paddles, musical instruments, ointments, starches, pigments, resins, waxes, oils, perfumes, soaps, medicines and over 370 known types of contraceptives.

To be continued in Wrr 18
source: *Permaculture*, issue no. 35,
March-May 1990



The Inaugural WRR. Earth Bludger



EARTH BLUDGER AWARD

Do we really want to put up with politicians and business people telling us that its because of "lazy green dole bludger anarchist rabble" that the world is in the shitty state that it is. Lets put the real bludgers on display. Anyone with more than half a brain knows that its the rich greedy cynical money grubbers with the wealth and power who are actively involved in raping the earth -for a profit- are the real culprits.

The WRR has long been aware of a crying need to recognize the efforts of this selfless minority who devote themselves to the task of transforming the beauty and wonders of the earth into a quick buck. It is for this reason we propose to create the Earth Bludger Award.

In a truly democratic and non-hierarchical spirit we invite our readers to contribute their suggestions for individuals and body corporates whom they feel are entitled to the prestigious title of Earth Bludger. Please mail us your suggestions, along with a brief descriptive passage outlining your reasons for nominating them along with a picture (a drawing will do) for us to display.

Because we have received no nominations for this issue I'd like, in the same spirit of democratic and non-hierarchical decision making, to proffer my own humble suggestion for this issue's Earth Bludger Award.

The October 1990 edition of World Rainforest Report Earth Bludger Award goes to Pope John Paul II for services above and beyond the call of avarice to the cause of global ecocide.

Speaking at a recent gathering of Catholics in Ferrara, Italy the pontiff declaimed against the falling population level of Western nations. "It is difficult, given this prospect to hope for a better future," he said. The Pope's statement makes it clear that he supports and encourages the high level of consumption and resource depletion, the resultant environmental pollution and impoverishment of Third World nations, which provide the basis of the wealth of developed nations.

He doesn't seem to want to criticise the World Bank for its shoddy operations or the powerful corporations whose bread and butter is the harvesting of tropical rainforests.

His statements condemning birth control have catastrophic effects in poor overpopulated nations, keeping mortality rates high and living standards low. When we consider that almost

Award.



the whole population of Central and South America, the Philippines, parts of South East Asia and Africa are heavily under the influence of Catholicism, then the enormous role of the church as a cause of overpopulation can be appreciated. Critics have called the Pope one of the worst environmental villains of all time.

When we consider that population pressures are also largely responsible for habitat destruction, including rainforest destruction, we can see that the Catholic Church's pontiff is a worthy recipient of the first ever "Earth Bludger Award."

Mr. Ed.



Australia

RAINFOREST REQUIEM

On Friday 28th of September activists from the Rainforest Information Centre organized a Street Theatre Action through the streets of Lismore. The action took the form of a funeral in which animal species lead a procession, incorporating an enormous rainforest log carried by green pall-bearers. The aim of the march was to commemorate the loss of species and the suffering caused to indigenous forest peoples through rainforest logging. Spokesperson for RIC Brenda Crosby said an article in the Los Angeles Times told... "deforestation of the world's tropical forests is occurring nearly 50% faster than the best previous scientific estimates showed with between 40 and 50 million acres lost annually." The requiem was followed by a light-hearted wake in Spinks Park where guest speakers Brett Pritchard and Fran Peavey addressed the crowd, followed by music from all women band "Trios Lost Control".



COOPERS AND LYBRAND REPORT NOT TO BE MADE PUBLIC

CANBERRA, Oct. 11 - A report commissioned by the Federal Government on the international tropical timber industry was unlikely to be officially released because it was outdated, the government said today. The report widely leaked to the media this week, was commissioned by former Environment Minister Graham Richardson from consultants Coopers and Lybrand. The National Association of Forest Industries (NAFI) today demanded the government release report following its extensive media coverage. But a spokesperson for Environment Minister Ros Kelly said it was unlikely to be officially released in its present form. The report, which found no justification for a ban on imports of tropical rainforest timber was given to the government in April. Mrs. Kelly's spokesperson said additional information had since been sought and the "game changed a bit".

The report said a ban on rainforest imports would be economically and diplomatically damaging for Australia. It preferred a reduction of the demand for timber in Australia, attempts to find substitutes for rainforest timber (arctic timbers, perhaps ? ed.) and said Australia should encourage better management.

The Wilderness Society in a statement said the report "missed the point" and wasted taxpayers' money.

The government says it wants to find ways to avoid encouraging the destruction of endangered tropical forests.

source: AAP, via fax from Aust. Democrats

FORESTRY COMMISSION PLANS TO LOG MORE OF CHAELUNDI OLD GROWTH:

Having been found conducting illegal logging operations in this unlogged area of forest, S-W of Grafton, the NSW Forestry Commission is conducting a thorough EIS (which they must do under forestry practice law). However they now have the gall to announce that they have done a partial EIS covering "a small key part of this unlogged forest," and are intending to log in this area in December, to provide timber to local mills while the full EIS is being done (and completed next year). Any one wanting more info contact The North East Forest Alliance on (066)213 278.

source: RAG News

SENATE INQUIRY RECOMMENDS CHANGES TO OVERSEAS AID PROGRAM

A Senate Inquiry has recommended major changes to ensure that Australia's overseas aid program is applied in an environmentally sensitive manner.

The report of the Senate Environment Committee on the Environmental Impact of Development Assistance (February 1990), criticised the performance of the Australian International Development Assistance Bureau (AIDAB), commenting that the "picture is disturbing". The committee found that 45% of the projects that were potentially environmentally significant, with a total value of more than \$211 million, had passed through the planning and design phase without consideration of environmental effects.

Furthermore over 30% of these projects resulted in major or minor negative impacts often in areas that substantially affected the wellbeing of the people the projects were designed to help. It described AIDAB's conclusion that Australian aid projects "are in general, avoiding the worst features of environmental degradation" as "self-condemning" and recommended that "AIDAB needs to improve its activities in this area very substantially".

The report makes recommendations for reform, including an increased program of Australian environmental aid, the creation of an environmental section within AIDAB, improved provision of information to government on development aid proposals, environmental impact statements in case, and incorporation of advice from NGO's. While the Senate Committee took over 50 submissions its report specifically

Australia

singled out Papua New Guinea which receives \$275 million of untied budget support from Australia annually. The committee made specific reference to the degradation of rainforests. Facing a cut to its export income of more than one-third due to the closure of the Bougainville copper mine, PNG's economy is in a perilous position. To exacerbate the problem, PNG's other major money earner, agricultural exports, is performing badly because of a

slump in commodity prices. Coffee is PNG's biggest agricultural export and the price of coffee has halved in the past year. With a population growth of nearly 3% easily outstripping economic growth thousands of young people each year enter an economy which has no place for them. The stresses which this creates fuel PNG's serious law and order problem and land contributes to a growing political instability which is threatening to tear apart the nation of 15 years. In such a bleak economic climate, PNG is looking for alternatives. One export which has potential is timber. PNG timbers are relatively unknown

internationally, but with marketing that could change. Based on the experience so far and a reading of the current indicators, it is likely that international pressure for environmentally friendly development will face a tough test in developing countries such as PNG over the next few years. The report also called for a review of Australian participation in international aid bodies, to determine how contributions can most effectively promote environmentally responsible development. This call comes at a time when US environmental and development NGO's have finally won the support of the US Administration in their effort to reform the activities of bodies like the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank. Critics have long charged that these bodies don't take into account the likely effects of their structural adjustment programs on the social and environmental conditions in recipient countries. The meetings of the IMF and World Bank held last September in Washington, were marked by demonstrations against the human costs of World Bank funded damming projects in India, Java and Zaire. The breakthrough in the US position has occurred as the result of an IMF reform initiative introduced into Congress early in 1989 and signed into law by President Bush at the end of November. The legislation instructs the treasury to pursue, through its Executive Director on the Fund, a package of policy reforms not dissimilar to those recommended by the Australian Senate Committee. While the US has nearly 20% of the voting power on the IMF, most other governments have been reluctant to support such reform initiatives. The Australian committee's recommendations, if accepted and implemented, may strike a sympathetic chord in Washington.

JUDGE SLATES NSW FORESTRY COMMISSION.

The Land and Environment Court in New South Wales, Australia has vindicated protests that took place last year in North Washpool State Forest. The Forestry Commission admitted to logging illegally in the area and the judge said that "it is difficult to have confidence that the Commission will observe its statutory duty". It appears the Commission also deceived both the Government and the logging industry by incorrectly stating that there were no alternative sources to the rainforest timbers from North Washpool.

There is now an injunction to prevent logging for about 6 months until a full court hearing, to take place early next year. This is seen as a major victory by environmentalists in their protracted battle with the Forestry Commission which is more concerned with selling off the timber in the people's state forest than with caring for these forests and the flora and fauna which inhabit them.

IT COST THE EARTH!

FRASER ISLAND'S FUTURE STILL UP FOR GRABS?

Logging on this unique and highly significant island has been occurring since the 1860's, but the last 60 years have seen increasing intensity of logging and subsequent degradation of the forests, with the use of machines to aid timber harvesting. Particularly since bulldozers and chainsaws were introduced to the island, allowing much greater access to, and exploitation of the trees, damage to the ecosystems has been enormously exacerbated.

Now with the future of logging on the island under intense public scrutiny and increasing concern for preservation of what is left, the timber companies, logging contractors and cutting crews seem to be running scared. Panic logging, extensive propaganda campaigning, persistent government lobbying and increasing activity of the local Forest Protection Society (FPS- which is actually a timber industry support group) have all helped counteract the moves towards overall protection of Fraser Island.

A paper submitted to the recent inquiry by Dr. R.G. Florence, from the Department of Forestry, Australian National University, argues some intriguing points. Dr. Florence acknowledges that continuing wood production from forests growing on sand can only be justified on sustainable grounds where there will be no breakdown in natural species and community patterns; the response of the forest to logging will be consistent with natural ecosystem processes; ecosystem nutrients will not be depleted or altered to any great extent, maintaining site productivity; and habitat for wildlife will be maintained. He then goes on to argue that current forestry practice on Fraser Island is ecologically sustainable, despite the fact that supporting scientific evidence is limited (which he himself admits). Some of the contentions he puts forward are definitely worth noting, such as: clearfelling and slash burning are unlikely to cause site deterioration; periodic harvesting can help maintain a dynamic vegetationally diverse and healthy forest in a way which is consistent with natural ecosystem processes.

The Inquiry into the future of Fraser Island and The Great Sandy Region has now been extended until at least April 1991. The fact that logging is allowed to continue during the inquiry appears to pre-empt the outcome on the future of logging, and seems contradictory by its very nature. Is it wise to examine what is widely perceived to be a jewel in our natural heritage, whilst allowing it to be degraded at the same time? Now with the inquiry extended, it seems even more apparent that there should be no further logging on Fraser Island; at least while it is decided whether it is necessary and ecologically sustainable.

Rosco



Australia (cont'd)

FRIENDS OF PENAN STAGE VIGIL AND HUNGER STRIKE

Friends of Penan recently held a 3 month vigil and 50 day hunger strike outside the Malaysian High Commission in Canberra, under freezing conditions. The 2 people who initiated the campaign, Brett Pritchard and Tania Price, travelled down from northern NSW. Brett Pritchard then conducted a 50 day hunger strike in an effort to focus media attention on the issue. Many local residents supported the campaign, donating necessities with some joining in and camping. The people involved in 'Friends of Penan' are concerned citizens who belong to no established organisation, and believe that it is up to every single individual to help solve the environmental crisis we all face. Friends of the Penan have been in contact with many politicians to lobby for the banning of tropical timber imports. They have personally met with a number of Australian and international politicians. As well as maintaining a constant vigil friends of the Penan have been approaching this issue from all angles. These include intensive lobbying and letter writing, raising public awareness, a major



boycott campaign and gaining support from unions, church groups, politicians and media. While in Canberra friends of Penan gained the public support from the Canberra Trades and Labor Council for a ban on the imports of tropical timbers. The vigil ended on the 12th September.

RAINFOREST ACTIVISTS GO APE

On Saturday the 27th of November activists from the Rainforest Information Centre in Lismore took part in an action for World Rainforest Week highlighting the role of Japanese mega-corp. Marubeni in destroying the forests of South-east Asia.

The action took the form of hanging a banner from the roof of the local Nissan car dealership (Nissan are a subsidiary of Marubeni) thereby establishing the link between parent company and tentacle. Slogans included, "Buy Nissan kill a tree", "Marubeni = Nissan = genocide" "Don't monkey with rainforests", and "Japan out of rainforests".

The action was carried out in response to a request from JATAN (Japan's rainforest action network) for worldwide support action backing up their own World Rainforest Week actions (see Japan story this issue.).

A large green tree frog and a friendly gorilla made the point that rainforest destruction is totally unacceptable

by clambering up onto the roof of the car yard and draping a vibrant banner reading, "Ban Japan from rainforests" over the awning, notifying one and all that when it comes to protecting the earth's biodiversity its "gorilla war on rainforest wreckers".

--The monkey's uncle



FEDERAL TIMBER IMPORTS - STILL TIME TO WRITE LETTERS Australian Decision on Tropical Timber Imports to be in early 1991. The long-awaited, much postponed Federal Government decision on whether to ban the importation of tropical timbers is now scheduled for early 1991. Australia is now in a position to have a real and global influence in protecting those invaluable areas that still remain and the people who live in them. This will be the last decade in which change is possible.

We ask you to join with us in calling on the Federal government to:

1. End the importation of timbers from primary tropical rainforest into Australia;
2. Implement a moratorium on the importation of timber from secondary tropical rainforest into Australia;
3. Redirect international development aid towards projects that will protect the rainforests and encourage environmentally sensitive industries;
4. Lobby other countries which import tropical timber to adopt a similar moratorium and assistance package; and
5. End all logging of domestic rainforests so as to ensure our credibility in calling for the above.

Although Australia has a very small share of world tropical timber trade, the symbolism of such a set of actions would be as powerful as New Zealand's stand against US nuclear ships.

Concerted public pressure may induce Cabinet to take a more courageous stand. Public awareness in Australia of the importance of and threats to tropical forests is growing rapidly. We ask you to do the urgently write to Hawke, Ros Kelly (Minister for the Environment) and Gareth Evans (Minister for Foreign Affairs) (All at Parliament House, Canberra.) to implement the five points above.

Now is the time to act with this cabinet decision clearly defining Australia's position to this global ecocide. Please do write urge your children friends and families. Cabinet needs receive these letters to illustrate the critical importance of implementing an importation ban.

Yanomami

GARIMPEIRO VIOLENCE BREEDS TRAGEDY IN YANOMAMI VILLAGES

Five garimpeiros invaded the Olomai Yekuana-Yanomami village last Thursday morning alleging that the Indians were stealing food from their lodgings. They came armed. Fifteen minutes later, two Yekuana and three garimpeiros were dead and one Yanomami lay wounded. Dr. Maria Aparecida da Silva, who is in the area by invitation of CCPY and FUNAI, was in the Homoxi village in the Parima range when she found a 12 year-old Yanomami boy severely wounded. He was flown to Boa Vista under her care. Little is known of the incident he was involved in because he is in a coma and unable to speak.

CCPY is outraged and deeply saddened by these events which are yet another tragic result of the invaders' illegal presence in Yanomami areas. The slain Indians are Loureno Yekuana, 65, and his son, Konaaka, 25, who were married to Yanomami. The elder Yekuana was the founder of the Olomai village, a result of the intermarriage of Yekuana and Yanomami. Waxi Sanuma, 45, was wounded. The Sanuma are a linguistic subgroup of the Yanomami.

The attacked villages lie within the 9 million hectares declared as traditional Yanomami territory last October 20 by the 7th Branch of the Federal Justice office. The declaration required the removal of all invaders, but almost a year later, this task has not been completed. FUNAI president Cantidio Guerreiro Guimaraes estimates that no more than 3,000 garimpeiros are still in the area, undoubtedly a conservative number. CCPY believes the figure is approximately 5,000.

The Attorney General Aristides Junqueira Alvarenga requested from Federal Police director Romeu Tuma, an inquiry into the Thursday's deaths. FUNAI president Guimaraes said FUNAI will accompany the investigations through their administrator in Boa Vista.

The Attorney General is also soliciting the application of law 2.889, or "law of genocide" which calls for 12 to 30 years of prison for the assassins who permit the genocide of the Yanomami. This would make accountable those responsible for past and present Yanomami deaths resulting from the garimpeiro invasions.

The CCPY office in Boa Vista reported that three Yanomami died from illnesses during the first few days of September, one from Hepatitis B (Serum Hepatitis), unknown to the Yanomami area before the garimpeiro invasion.

Federal Police have left the Yanomami area. It was reported that on September 20 FUNAI plans to begin expelling all remaining garimpeiros and destroy their landing strips.

Although the funds for the expulsion of the garimpeiros were approved, a decree is still needed to allow for the use of the funds. The president of FUNAI has now recanted and said: "We hope that by the end of the month it will be possible to initiate the action".

CCPY feels that the removal of garimpeiros is unlikely to occur due to the coming elections.

FUNAI PRESIDENT REVEALS GOVERNMENT'S STANCE

In an interview with Folha de Sao Paulo published September 10, FUNAI president Cantidio Guerreiro Guimaraes revealed his positions regarding the Yanomami dilemma. It was the first time since President Collor's inauguration that a FUNAI president has spoken so clearly about the matter and the steps that should be taken.

As President Collor's new hand-picked FUNAI president, Guimaraes' opinions reflect the general stance of the government regarding the Yanomami. That stance is not encouraging. In fact, it proves the need for even stronger pressure to reverse the government's position, a position that has only proved to be detrimental to the Yanomami.

Guimaraes said the division of the 19 "islands" in the Yanomami territory is the "best because it facilitates vigilance" of the area. "It is possible to maintain the Yanomami culture within those areas. They seem small on paper. The 'caboclo' (civilized Brazilian Indian of pure blood) of the Amazon, for example, lives like an Indian, roams about like an Indian and sometimes does not even own land. But he lives well!"



Guimaraes said he doesn't think it necessary to outlaw the extraction of natural resources in order to protect indigenous territories. "One thing has nothing to do with the other", he said. "There can be serious projects that take advantage of the riches in the indigenous areas without interfering with their culture or with the environment, as long as it is done critically and honestly".

"You cannot say that a road that will benefit millions of Brazilians cannot pass through an indigenous area just because that area has been demarcated. It's delicate subject that must be studied case by case", he said.

In the case of the Yanomami, the construction of the Northern Perimeter Highway in the 1970's and the gold rush in the 1980's has signified illness, death and the disruption of their social system.

Guimaraes comments on these indigenous matters, especially because he is president of the government's Indian agency, are criminal.

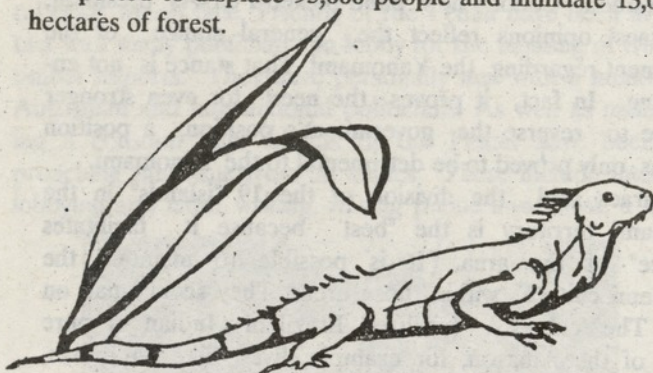
Source: CCPY, Chile.

World Bank

THE SARDAR SAROVAR PROJECT, INDIA.

The Sardar Sarovar Project (SSP) in Gujarat, western India, is a combined power and water development scheme which is expected to provide electricity and water to the states of Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh (MP), Maharashtra and Rajasthan. This project is part of the massive Narmada Development Scheme involving the construction of 30 major dams, 135 medium and 3000 minor dams on the Narmada River and involving the total cost of more than US\$15000 Million.

The entire project will displace 1.5 million people, mostly of tribal origin. Meanwhile, the Sardar Sarovar Project is expected to displace 95,000 people and inundate 13,000 hectares of forest.



Recent developments in the valley report massive police crack downs on opponents to the dam. Hundreds of people have been arrested before they were able to attend a planned peaceful rally in the Narmada Valley. Yet, the World Bank insists that its involvement in the project is beneficial to the majority of Indian people.

In meeting with World Bank staff and executive directors at the Annual World Bank/IMF meetings, NGOs criticized the Bank for its continued funding as evidence clearly shows that resettlement and rehabilitation (even in Gujarat where they claim progress is being made) is totally inadequate. Whilst thousands suffer it is expected that the main beneficiaries will be people in the rich central districts of Gujarat, where a large proportion of water resources are already concentrated.

In May this year, the Japanese Finance Department announced it would withdraw funds for the SSP on the grounds that the Indian government had not shown any efficient relocation plan for the local people. Yet the dam continues to be built with our government's and the World Bank's support. Opponents to the dam maintain that the project is the largest ever planned human tragedy.

SUMMARY OF EVENTS.

1. After five years there is still no comprehensive resettlement plan for the more than 95,000 people who will be displaced by the dam, nor has land for most of the resettlement even been identified.

2. Eight critical environmental studies and action plans are either still incomplete or have not been implemented; Bank loan conditions required three of these to be completed by the end of 1985.

3. Since November 1988, the World Bank has laid down four deadlines for resolution of specific resettlement and environmental issues, yet all four deadlines have passed with negligible compliance to the required measures.

4. Massive demonstrations in the Narmada Valley, Bombay and Delhi have been increasing in the past two years. Leading Indian citizens have joined tribals and villages in the campaign. Reports of police violence and violation of peoples rights are occurring. Most recently, opponents to the dam were rounded up around the Badwani area in Madhya Pradesh and arrested, before they could hold their peaceful rally.

5. The Japanese Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund, the main co-financier of the project withdrew from the project in May 1990, after unprecedented public hearings and media attention on the project in Japan.

6. Even though the Bank is satisfied that resettlement and rehabilitation in the state of Gujarat, (where the dam is situated) is progressing, a report from two sociologists in June 1990 clearly details massive problems and decrease in quality of life for the displaced.

7. The Bank is supporting a new US\$200 million Narmada Basin development loan in part to mitigate the adverse environmental and social impacts of the Sardar Sarovar Dam. Critics say this is equivalent of wasting more money as so little progress has been made in the past few years, that further finances appear to have very little value in remedying the situation.

8. Several Executive Directors at the World Bank have proposed that an operational evaluation take place for this project. This is unprecedented as these evaluations only take place after a project is complete. It shows that there is growing concern within the Bank that this project is disastrous both socially, environmentally and economically.

WRITE NOW EXPRESSING YOUR CONCERNS ABOUT THIS PROJECT AND DEMAND THAT THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT WITHDRAW ANY SUPPORT FOR THE SARDAR SAROVAR. DEMAND FOR THE WORLD BANK TO CEASE FUNDING IMMEDIATELY.

WRITE TO ROBERT CARLING, ALTERNATE DIRECTOR, AUSTRALIA; MR B CONABLE, PRESIDENT; MR QURESHI, SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT FOR OPERATIONS; and MR VERGIN, INDIA COUNTRY DEPT., all at THE WORLD BANK, 1818 H ST, NW WASHINGTON DC 20433

AND: MR PAUL KEATING, AUSTRALIAN GOVERNOR TO THE WORLD BANK THE TREASURY, PARKES PLACE, CANBERRA, ACT, 2600.

FOR MORE INFO: MS C SHERMAN. RAIN-Forest INFORMATION CENTRE PO BOX 161, BYRON BAY, NSW 2481. AUSTRALIA. PH.066 853548/218505. EMAIL. PEG:CSHERMAN

fax: 066 222 339

Indonesia

VANISHING FOREST IN INDONESIA

The following is an edited version of Jos Suprpto's article "Vanishing Forest in Indonesia: a critique of sustainability in forest development", it is not intended as a substitute for the complete article which we suggest should be read in its entirety. To obtain a complete copy contact: Jos Suprpto Rainforest Information Centre. P.O Box 368, Lismore, NSW 2480.

INTRODUCTION.

Many articles have been published debating and analysing the most complex issues related to Indonesia's forests and its management. But suggestions made to date by international conferences, governments and environmental groups alike have provoked cynicism. This is due to the existing dilemma between conservationists', long-term ecological considerations versus the governments' present political and economic infrastructure relevant to progress and development.

Ever since the acceleration in world economic and political interdependence manifested in multinational agreements, in both the public and private sectors, the dependence of Indonesian economics and politics on the developed countries has increased significantly. (This can be seen in the process of devaluation of the rupiah early in 1989 when the initiatives came merely from the IMF's "better policy").

The purpose of this article is to show how the present situation has come about by undertaking a critical study of existing Indonesian rainforest and its management. In doing so it is necessary to consider the interconnection between the current political and economic situations.

I. THE HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE OF FORESTRY MANAGEMENT.

According to the Constitution of 1945 Article 33, the Indonesian government discouraged private investment in forestry. During the Sukarno era (1945-1966), the Indonesian state lumber corporation Perhutani (later Inhutahi), held a monopoly on timber concessions, and mainly concerned itself with production from teak plantations in Java. They arranged production-sharing operations with Japanese companies, but these were generally unsuccessful.

After the bloody coup by General Suharto in 1966, the military government opened the door for foreign investment. Consequently, the forestry management system was reversed. By then, timber productions was extracted mostly from the natural forest outside Java. The introduction of the Basic Forestry Act of 1967 encouraged bigger foreign investment in forestry.

The military elites and technocrats who promulgated the new investment law in 1967, soon received great interest from foreign investors. By September 1968, the government had approved 9 projects totalling \$70 million and 30 more companies conducted preliminary surveys. Undoubtedly some political considerations, and probably bribery, influenced the awards of early concessions, e.g. US entrepreneur Leon De Long.

Investigative research by Rachael Grossman and Lenny Siegel published in Pacific Research Vol.IX, Number 1, November, 1977, p.3, reveals in detail the undesirable forestry business practices at the time.

II. FOREST IS SACRIFICED TO DEVELOPMENT.

Like the rest of the Third World countries which are trapped by such Western development paradigms, the functions of Indonesian forests no longer serve only in supporting the biosphere and the survival of life itself, but carry an extra burden as a direct result of the present global economic system.

Forest based industry is the second largest earner of much needed foreign exchange. In 1989, wood and rattan products earned about 28.3% of total non-oil export earnings.

Indonesia has the world's second largest rainforest. It covers three quarters of the land area of the country. Almost half of it is in the hands of concessionaries. Furthermore, logging has been intensified since the growth of the plywood industry in the early 1980s. Indonesia's largest logging firms include the Jayanti Group and Plywood tycoon, Bob Hasan's, Georgia Pacific Corporation boasted that forest products bring in over US\$3 billion each year to Indonesia's economy.

III. ANOTHER CONSIDERATION.

Indonesia has a large population presently numbering about 180 million people, the fifth largest in the world. By the year 2000 the total population will have increased to 230 million. Instead of looking at land-reforms the government has aside about 7% of its virgin forest for its transmigration program in order to relieve the population density in Java.

In addition, 1987 official figures show that 9.5 million hectares has been given to the mining industry. There is no clear data on recent concessions to the mining industry. But the implementation of a new deregulation policy would inevitably increase the number of concessionaries. So how much more forest has been given to mining industry? The figures are not available to the public.

Indonesia (cont'd).

It is evident that the massive exploitation of Indonesian forests will continue until nothing remains. The forestry issue is not merely subject to economic exploitation, but involves immediate political opportunism. To understand this, one must remember that the powerful logging concessionaires, mining and agricultural interest are associated with the military elite.

IV. INDONESIA'S FORESTRY MANAGEMENT POLICY.

The basic framework of the policy and strategy of forestry development in Repelita V (fifth five year planning development) looks rather impressive. However, there are several confused issues involving forestry management policy (Tata Guna Hutan Kesepakatan - TGHK) and the basic concept of sustainability. Both areas clearly require proper explanation.

It says: "Indonesia contains 350 million acres (127.2 million hectares) and Indonesia has designated nearly 280 million acres (101.8 million hectares) as permanent forest. Over 43 percent (43.7 million hectares) of those permanent forests will remain in their natural state, unchanged. The other 57 percent (58.1 million hectares) will be carefully managed for environmental and commercial uses under strict laws and regulations." However, in the same publication on a different page, there is confusing statement which contradicts the first: "Indonesia has designated 89 percent of their 350 million acres (113.2 million hectares) of tropical forests as permanent forests."

Further confusion in Indonesia's forestry management can be seen in the National Forestry Action Plan document completed in the early 1980s.

V. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE FORESTS.

Today almost all human activities related to development have embraced a new fashionable term: sustainability. The phrase, as made popular by the World Commission on Environment and Development, 1987, refers to the means by which development is made to "meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs". Even though the needs of future generations are undefinable and the future potential for wealth generation from species and ecosystems are equally unknowable, the term is used to justify any purpose of development. In Indonesia this is certainly evident.

Since the start of the logging boom in Indonesia, the forestry agreement obliges the concessionaires to harvest trees under a prescribed system whereby only mature trees with diameters of 50 centimetres or more can be harvested on a 35 years cycle. However, since the exploitation and management of these concession forests are entrusted entirely to concessionaires, serious problems have emerged. In addition, poorly paid forestry officials are highly vulnerable to bribes yet another serious flaw to be remedied.

MINING INSIDE FORESTS.

Apart of the shifting cultivation and the logging operations, the mining industry contributes significantly to deforestation in Indonesia. A vast wave of new mining

activity is now surging across the Indonesian archipelago. Why is there a sudden surge of interest in Indonesia among foreign investors? Besides geological discoveries which confirms the tremendous gold deposit potential buried across the Indonesian archipelago, there are several factors contributing to the causes of today's gold boom. Some of these are:

1. The political stability under the military regime.
2. Cheap labour force allowing a low cost mining operation.
3. The comprehensiveness of the work contract, which sets out complete rights and obligations within a single document.

Currently "strip mining" is employed by the companies which strips the top soil and this has proved to be more damaging to the forest than logging operations.

VI. SCAPEGOAT.

In his National Day address on August 16, 1989 last year, President Suharto argued that in developing countries such as Indonesia, deforestation is heavily contributed to by backwardness and poverty. The argument is often used by the World Bank to sell its policies



in the name of progress and development in third world countries. Thus accusation is directly addressed to indigenous peoples who have practised shifting cultivation for hundreds of years, and some desperate local people for the expansion of current deforestation in Indonesia.

VII. TRANSMIGRATION.

In terms of the transmigration programme, like any other form of development, the present government is again collaborating with foreign agencies. This particular project refers to the World Bank. The Bank's close co-operation over many years, is not limited to financial assistance, but includes improved site screening and evaluation, mapping techniques, programme management and farming systems etc. To a large extent thus the World Bank should acknowledge its responsibility over the consequences of the transmigration programme.

Despite the Bank's continued assistance and the Indonesian government's determination transmigration has been a disastrous failure. The most significant factor is due to the inadequacies of government policy and persistent technical blunders, which planning authorities refuse to correct.

Indonesia (cont'd)

Why then do the planning authorities refuse to accept such a correction? Much has been said that transmigration programs, like commercial logging, is considered to be one of the important factors in the government's regional economic development priorities. The truth, however, as Carmel Budiardjo put it:

"Transmigration is integral to the goal of nation-building, which involves not only the assimilation of all ethnic groups into a single Indonesian entity but the imposition of Java's hegemony over the entire archipelago." (14)

The allegation was aproved by the outspoken General Benny Murdani, the former Commander-in-Chief of the Indonesian Armed Forces. He describes the transmigration scheme as 'the only programme in the economic field that must quite categorically be tied in with defence and security consideration.'

VIII. THE FACT AND THE FICTION.

The forests destruction in Indonesia is indeed a complex issue. The process involving a mixture of greedy businessmen who want to get rich quickly, corrupt officials, population pressures, ignorant farmers, inadequate supervision and lack of proper planning management in every forestry sector. The greater concern, however, is not the ignorance of farmer's shifting cultivation practices as has been suggested. But the implementation of the government's economic development policy, which undoubtedly opens the door for the commercialisation of the forest, must take the greatest responsibility. Particularly the greedy logging companies.

IX. THE DILEMMA OF THE LABOUR FORCE IN THE TIMBER INDUSTRY.

From a humanitarian point of view, it seems, the international boycott on tropical timber production would threaten the livelihood of thousands workers in the Indonesia forest industry. However, such sentimental extrapolation would become so insignificant when one really understands the real life of the working class in Indonesia, particularly the workers involved in the logging industry.

One of the observers who was able to witness this is Kenichi Asano, Kyodo's chief Jakarta correspondent. On November 19, 1989, he went to Amutu Besar Island in Bintuni Bay, Irian Jaya to investigate the operation of one of the chips factory PT Bintuni Utama. After spending several days in the area he dredged up some disturbing facts. Bintuni Utama had not only failed to make a legally required environmental impact assessment, but failed to provide proper welfare for its workers.

He described the situation thus: "Loggers worked under dreadful conditions. They were forced to log for 12 hours with an hour for lunch. Each week they received half a day off. Everyone was allotted an area of only four square metres for sleeping and rest while medical and dental care were insufficiently provided." Moreover, Asano found that the loggers were ignorant of their rights.

X. THE COST OF DEVELOPMENT. The government's "development demands sacrifices" attitude indeed demanded the high cost of irreparable damage of Indonesia's forests. According to the World Bank 1989 annual report, deforestation and timber depletion cost



Indonesia about \$1 billion a year. The understatement of log harvests by concessionaires and inadequate tax collection cost the government about \$1.2 billion between 1980 - 1985. These costs have not included the losses in ecological and environmental benefits which cannot be quantified anyway.

In terms of Indonesian politics, the legacy of colonialism remains solid, reflecting the government's inability to maintain self-sustained development and leaving it dependant on foreign technical and financial aid. Furthermore, the government's tendency to act to maintain power in the short term rather than ecological balance in the long term provides a formidable obstacle to sustainable management.

XI. CONCLUSION.

In conclusion, the unavoidable fact is that the Indonesian government fails to manage the forest industry in an economically or ecologically sound manner. Its commitment to sustainable forest management is actually weakened by the weight of the world's unbalanced and stratified financial and trading system. Multinationals disguised as promoters of development follow the tracks of colonialism in haste and with force if necessary. Fortunes paid to individuals via government agencies keep the government at their service, while the wealth of the country is shipped to the 1% of the world who do not need it.

The Indonesian government does not represent the will of the people, so it acts to maintain power in the short term rather than ecological balance or sustainable management in the long term. Clearly growth towards a sound economy with responsible environmental safeguards cannot be made without the will of the people and will not occur whilst such an autocratic government is in power.

WORLD BANK

LATEST ABUSES, MISMANAGEMENT ETC.

The World Bank has prepared a new forestry policy which was discussed by the Board of Executive Directors on November 16. This policy will determine World Bank forestry loans and activities for years to come. The development of the policy is at an early stage and now is the best chance NGOs have to exercise substantial influence on it. Meetings of the Executive Directors determine the principles and scope of any policy. Contacting your country's Executive Director at this time is crucial to ensure a fundamental shift in the Bank's thinking on forestry issues. The key issues that the EDs should be asked to demand are:

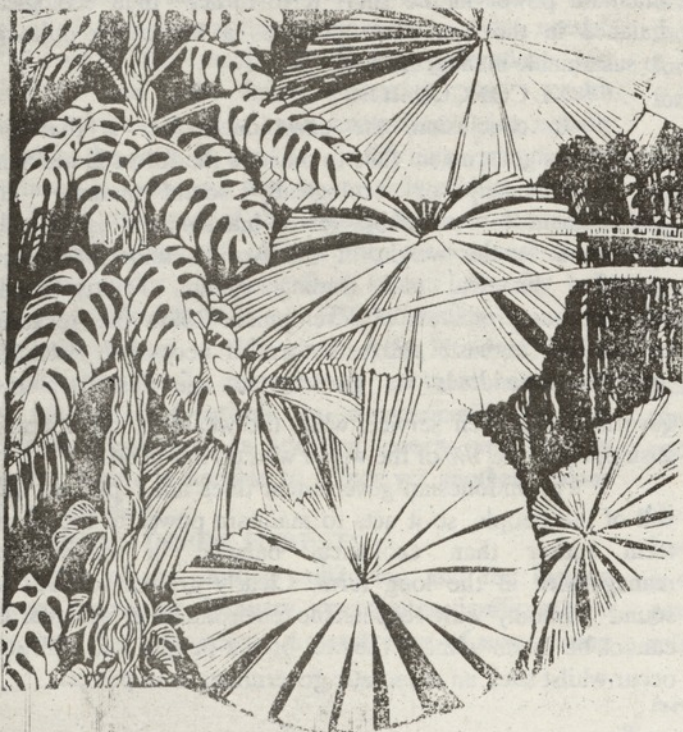
1) Stop all forestry sector lending until the new policy is in place (forestry sector loans for Cameroon, Congo and Gabon are at an advanced stage of preparation and may be brought before the Board before the new policy takes hold in July 1991).

2) Review of previous and current World Bank involvement in tropical forests needs to include on-the ground assessments and consultation with affected population. At present, the review process will not conduct any field research of Bank projects.

3) Neglect of the role of forest peoples. The planned review pays little attention to the livelihoods and rights of forest dwellers. The needs and rights of the several hundred million forest people need to be the central theme of the new policy.

4) Sustainability. There is no example of sustainable industrial logging in moist tropical forests. The World needs to recognize this and halt all projects that support commercial logging in primary tropical forests.

Australians please write to Australia's governor for the World Bank, Paul Keating, Treasurer, Parliament House, Canberra, 2600, Australia).
source: Korinna Horta/ EDF



THE NEW OPERATIONAL DIRECTIVE ON ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT MEETS STRONG CRITICISM.

72 non-government organizations recently signed a letter to President of the World Bank, Mr Barber Conable, outlining concerns over the Bank's Operational Directive 4.00, Annex A: Environmental Assessment. The Directive which was released last October requires that an environmental assessment (EA) be conducted on Bank-funded projects that are classified as having significant environmental impacts. However, only 8% of the 197 loans in the pipeline as of June 1990 are categorized for an EA. Efforts by the Bank to review the Directive have come to nothing. Although Bank staff are asking for comments on the Directive, there is severe doubt that these will be incorporated into a revised procedure.

As it now stands, environmental assessments will have very little input from local people although they nearly always possess the best source of knowledge in affected areas. Where local communities collaborate on an EA, they are excluded from decision making processes in favour of 'environmental experts'. Instead of using the most valuable resource of people who have had direct contact with the land for generations, the Directive does not ensure local community and NGO participation.

The EA is a document of the borrower country, thus there is no provision for it to be released to public scrutiny. Lack of access to information will also occur by having insufficient documentation on a proposed project and its associated environmental issues. EAs at present do not allow for a project to be squashed. Instead the process is designed to identify ways of improving projects environmentally and minimizing, mitigating or compensating for adverse impact. This clearly shows that the World Bank will still continue to fund environmentally destructive projects. All the EA will do is to try and reduce the harmful affects of a project rather than stop it.

NGOs were unanimous in their call for access to information so that public participation in the environmental assessment process can in reality take place. They also called public participation to be inbuilt into the whole procedure. Other recommendations included the need for all Bank financed projects to be subject to environmental assessments, at least to the extent necessary to justify exemption. Attention was also brought to the clause in the Directive where it states that certain projects may not need separate EAs as environment would be a major focus of project preparation. We are witnessing an increase in these types of projects. However, this does not mean these projects are not environmentally damaging. For instance, the Tropical Forestry Action Plan, severely criticized for accelerating global deforestation, was to be the scheme that would protect tropical forests. Development in watershed areas is often deemed environmentally positive, however, certain projects based on commercialization of forestry, horticulture and agriculture can

World Bank

often lead to environmental degradation. It is therefore vital that all projects be up for review to ascertain whether there are any environmental issues to be regarded.

Finally, environmental assessments are not required for structural adjustment or sectoral adjustment loans. Even though there is ample evidence to link these types of loans to adverse social and environmental impacts, the Bank refuses to accept that environmental degradation results from adjustment lending.

Write to the World Bank and call for the environmental assessment of all loans including:

- greater public access to information,
- public participation in decision making,
- the authority to completely stop environmentally adverse projects,

- further clarification of project screening, i.e the criteria for which projects are screened into different categories for their environmental impact should be detailed. Screening decisions and the reason for the classification should be released to the public with sufficient time for those concerned to appeal the decision if deemed necessary. The project lists a 'environmentally focussed' be not exempt from the environmental assessment procedure before being scrutinized.

The World Bank

Mr Conable President

Mr Piddington Director, Environment Department

Mr Carling Alternate Executive Director, Australia.

For further information write to:

Rainforest Information Centre, Carol Sherman, P.O

Box 161, Byron Bay, NSW 2481 AUSTRALIA. ph 06 853548
or 218505 fax:06 222339 email:csherman



WORLD BANK PROPOSES GREEN FUND.

Environmentalists and non-government organizations (NGOs) who gathered in Washington last week to examine present World Bank performance accused the Bank of "green-washing". This criticism was targeted at the Global Environmental Facility also known as the Green Fund. The proposed Fund is intended to make over US\$1 billion available to improve global environmental conditions and promote the protection of natural resources in the Third World. Several Executive Directors including Australia's Mr Carling showed great surprise by the reaction from the non-government community.

Whilst welcoming additional funds for environmental uses, Australian conservationist Ms Carol Sherman said in Washington this week, "It is highly unlikely that the World Bank with its present record of contributing to global environmental degradation will be able to administer this Fund in a positive way. The Bank should be cleaning up its own lending priorities by funding projects and

programs that do not degrade the environment. Environmental measures should be an integral component in the design and implementation of all Bank projects."

The Green Fund would provide additional soft loan or low interest money to help developing countries take action they otherwise could not afford on issues such as ozone depletion, global warming and biodiversity protection." Whilst environmentalists are not questioning the need of providing assistance to the Third World to protect the environment and rectify existing damage, we are questioning the validity of the Bank to manage such a fund. The Bank has not been able ensure sustainable environmentally benign development over the past 40 years. In fact, its present record clearly shows that it continues to provide loans to projects that involve forced resettlement and degrade natural resources. Therefore, we are calling for the Green Environmental Facility to be located and administered outside of Bank jurisdiction", Ms Sherman said.

NGOs believed the Green Fund would send a signal to Bank staff that it is acceptable to continue with its present lending patterns as donor countries would be in the background ready to counteract any harmful environmental effects. "What is needed is fundamental reform of World Bank policies. If environmental and social impacts were realistically analyzed before a loan is approved, then damaging lending should not occur. The Bank must shift its priorities away from major hydro and irrigation schemes, logging operations and mining schemes all of which impact severely on local communities and the environment and look for an alternative development model. So far, we have no evidence that the World Bank could be trusted with a Global Environmental Facility," Ms Sherman announced.

Carol Sherman.



Poem Tree Page

I AM RAINFOREST

I am rainforest.

Counted in your human years I am over a hundred and fifty million year old. If I were one of your buildings you would take precious care of me. For cheap plywood forming and disposable chopsticks you lay me to waste. You destroy me so carelessly, tearing down so many of my trees for a few planks. Leaving the rest to rot or burn. You push needless roads through me deep into my still interior. You cause my thick layer of precious topsoil to wash away, turning crystals river turbid and thick with yellow mud.

I am home to countless species of plants and animals. And within me is the richest bio-diversity on our planet. But after the chainsaws and bulldozers have passed. The sickly stillness of death reigns supreme on my denuded landscapes.

I can't stand your screaming machines which tear through my trunks, rip my flesh reducing hundreds of years of slow growth to saw dust. All in the name of human progress and greed

Do you not realise my death foretells your own ?

I'm a major carbon sink stabilizing the atmosphere in an intricate dance of planetary gases.

I am necessary for the regulation of global water and climatic cycles. When I am gone disasters will wreak havoc on this planet.

You who degrade and destroy me, do you realise how much I have given you ? I was the birthplace of flowering plants and much of the food and medicine you use today.

Many more riches which I could give to you lie waiting in my cool interior. Forever lost to your species because of your short term greed and ignorance. The true members of your race that do respect and understand me you refuse to listen to.

The Penan whom I hold close to my heart, wrapped in the protective love of my forests, are dying in spirit as I grow smaller and smaller.

These gentle shy people, the finest of human kind are facing genocide. You have cut down the fruit trees and the wild sago palms that I provided for them. The animals are gone. The water is not fit for drinking. And the plant food and medicine which they depend on for their existence can no longer be found.

For 50,00 years I have protected and looked after them.

But now the sacred dwelling places of the forest spirits and the sacred graves of their loved ones and ancestors are desecrated by bulldozers before their very eyes.

I have made these people so much a part of me that as I sicken and die so shall they.

And when we have passed into the fossilized remains of history, you shall look back at what you have done in horror and ne shame and scream why!! The death throes are criss-crossing my fragile eco-systems like the ugly logging roads that now scar my once unblemished perfection. And when I am gone those death throes shall shake the whole planet which you call but do not treat as home.

Brett Pritchard 1990



Merchandise

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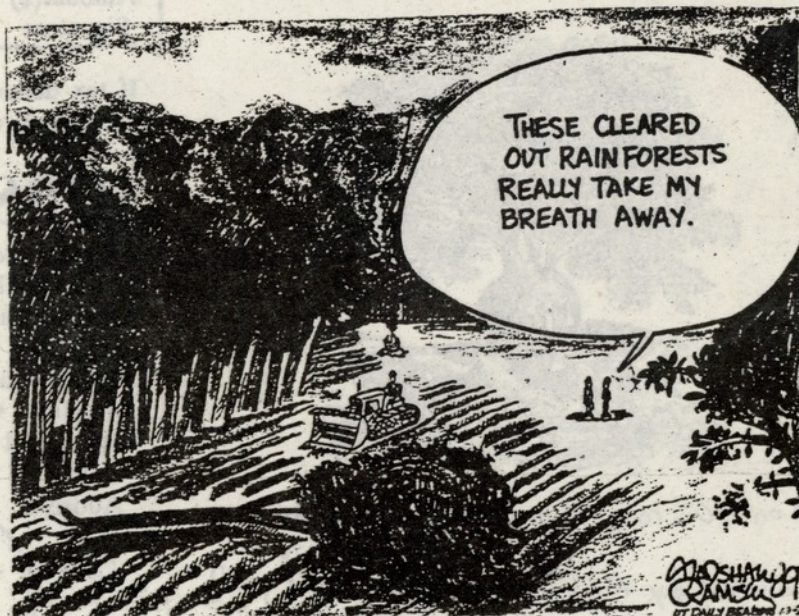
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